TUESDAY
June 23, 2026

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Trinamool rebels axe Mamata as party chief

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NUMERO UNO

Messi becomes highest scorer in history of World Cup

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CONTROVERSIAL ECONOMIST

Former U.S. Fed chief Alan Greenspan dies

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A Trojan horse in the IITs

Myth-based inquiries finding space in the framework of the IITs

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'TECHNICAL INCIDENT'

12 Indians killed in gas plant blast in Qatar

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NEARBY

Hundreds join rally against Bidadi project

BIDADI
More than 1,000 farmers from at least nine districts embarked on a bike rally from BGS Circle in Bidadi to Bairamangala on Monday. The rally was held against the proposed Bidadi Township Project. » PAGE 3

Banks get major High Court relief

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka has ruled that banks are not required to pay service tax merely because customers maintain a Minimum Average Balance in their accounts.
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Cross-voting: State leaders reach Delhi

BENGALURU
The episode of cross-voting by some BJP MLAs in the Council polls is now at the doorstep of the high command, with State president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok heading to Delhi. » PAGE 6

Cong. to form panel on SIR, says Hariprasad

BENGALURU
The Congress-led Karnataka government will constitute a special committee to frame the State's conditions and objections against the SIR, KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad said. » PAGE 6

15 die in U.P. building fire, victims mostly students

Videos show youth falling from the building in Lucknow next to roadside railing; three held, State govt. forms SIT to probe incident; PM expresses grief, announces ₹2 lakh for kin of the deceased

Rescue efforts: Firefighters try to douse the fire that broke out at the commercial building in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday. AFP

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

At least 15 people, mostly students, were killed and five injured in a fire that engulfed a three-storey commercial building housing a graphics animation coaching centre, a library, and a pet shop, in the Aliganj area of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on Monday.

Three individuals – Ram Krishna Upadhyay, Virendra Prasad Shukla, and Tushar Krishna Jaiswal – have been arrested in connection with the incident, the police said. The accused are joint owners of the building, officials said.

Four officials – Gaurav Kumar, Executive Engineer (Collection), Jankipuram; Kamlendra Kumar Singh, Food Safety and Standards Officer, Indira Nagar; Anil Kumar, Assistant Engineer; and Pramod Pandey, Junior Engineer – have been suspended over the incident. Witnesses said eight students jumped from the building to escape the blaze. Videos showed youth falling from the first floor next to a roadside railing and local people carrying them away.

More than four animals were charred to death at the pet shop-cum-veterinary clinic on the ground floor of the building.

Twelve fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the blaze, which began around 2.30 p.m., was brought under control after three hours, an official from the fire department said.

'Started in AC duct'

The State's Urban Development and Energy Minister, A. K. Sharma, said preliminary information indicated that the fire may have started in the building's AC duct and the smoke led to suffocation of those present in the building due to the absence of a proper exit route. The Minister said lapses in building standards would be probed.

Probe ordered

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who cut short his visit to Aligarh and returned to Lucknow on learning about the fire, rushed to the spot.

"The matter will be thoroughly investigated and those found responsible will be brought to justice," he said.

The State government formed a two-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the incident. The SIT, comprising Amrit Abhijat, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Religious, and Culture Department, and Praveen Kumar, Additional Director-General of Police, Lucknow Zone, has been instructed to submit its report within seven days.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for those injured.

"Anguished by the loss of lives in a fire mishap in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. My condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover at the earliest. Rescue operations are underway and authorities are providing all possible assistance," he wrote in a post on X.

Eyewitnesses recounted the horror with one person saying, "When I arrived at the spot, I saw smoke billowing from the building. Some students had already been rescued, and four to five students managed to come out."

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SCREAMS, CALLS, AND A WAIT
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Talks with Iran laid a 'good foundation' for deal: U.S.

Agence France-Presse
BURGENSTOCK

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance declared on Monday that a "very good foundation" had been laid for negotiations towards a final deal with Iran, after a marathon session of direct talks in Switzerland.

Tehran has agreed for inspectors from the UN's nuclear watchdog to return to the country, Mr. Vance said, a year after Iran suspended some cooperation and blocked inspectors from key nuclear sites bombed by the U.S. and Israel in the 12-day war of 2025.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said on Monday that "a very brief discussion took place regarding the nuclear issue, but there was no discussion of details" and that nuclear talks had not begun.

Mr. Vance, meanwhile, said Tehran had agreed to invite International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors "back to their country", calling it "a major milestone... and the first step in permanently denuclearising" Iran.

The U.S. Treasury Department later on Monday issued a general licence for Iran that authorised the production, delivery, and sale of crude oil and petrochemical and petroleum products of Iranian-origin through August 21. The transactions authorised include imports into the U.S.

Mediators Pakistan and Qatar said the negotiators in Switzerland have reached agreement on a "roadmap towards reaching a final deal within 60 days", with technical talks to continue for the rest of the week.

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SANCTION WAIVER
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Exit call: Labour leader Keir Starmer makes a statement after announcing his resignation as British PM on Monday. AFP

Keir Starmer says he is resigning as U.K. Prime Minister

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced that he will step down, acknowledging that the Labour's Parliamentary Party does not see him as the best candidate to lead them into the next general election.

The party will set out a timetable for the transition, possibly through a contest, so that a new Premier is in place before September.

Former Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, who was recently sworn in as an MP, said he will put his name forward for the role of Prime Minister.

Speaking outside No. 10 Downing Street on Monday, Mr. Starmer said he had inherited a Labour Party that was "politically, financially, and morally bankrupt". He spoke of leading the party in a landslide victory in 2024 and highlighted his record, citing growth in real wages, the fastest economic growth in the G7, reduced wait-times for medical appointments, a ban on social media for under-16s, trade deals, and mending fences with the European Union.

"I know the question being asked now is not who was best placed to change the Labour Party to take us into power and to begin the vital work of improving lives for millions of people. Those questions have been answered," Mr. Starmer said, adding, "The question my party is asking now is whether I am best placed to lead us into the next general election."

'Graceful acceptance'

"I have heard the answer of my parliamentary party to that question, and I accept that answer with good grace," Mr. Starmer said. The Prime Minister had informed King Charles III of his decision on Monday morning, following a weekend of deliberation at his official country home, Chequers.

The Labour's decision-making body, the National Executive Committee, would set out a timetable, Mr. Starmer said, with nominations for a new leader opening on July 9. In the case of a contest, the new leader would be in post before the U.K. Parliament reconvenes in September, as per Mr. Starmer.

Reacting to the news of Mr. Starmer's resignation, Mr. Burnham thanked the Prime Minister and announced he would run for No. 10 Downing Street and for Labour Party leader.

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LANDSLIDE TO SETBACKS
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SIR: Karnataka CEO seeks exemption from biometric attendance for BLOs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V. Anbu Kumar has requested all heads of departments to temporarily exempt staff deployed for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) from daily biometric attendance and attendance through the Kartavya Attendance App during the period of the exercise.

'Utmost urgency'

In a letter on Monday, addressed to the Chief Secretary, the CEO stated that the field-level work under the SIR is of "utmost urgency" and must be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

V. Anbu Kumar

The CEO said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are engaged in various activities including door-to-door visits and many of them have reported difficulties in reporting daily to their parent departments for biometric attendance as this is affecting the SIR work.

"Their attendance during the SIR be considered based on certificates issued by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) concerned, instead of daily biometric or app-based attendance," Mr. Anbu Kumar said. He has also requested all department heads to issue appropriate directions to ensure smooth implementation of the exercise.

Door-to-door visits

This is crucial because door-to-door visits under the SIR are scheduled to begin from June 30. BLOs have said that if daily biometric attendance continues, it could create challenges for both the SIR work and routine department duties.

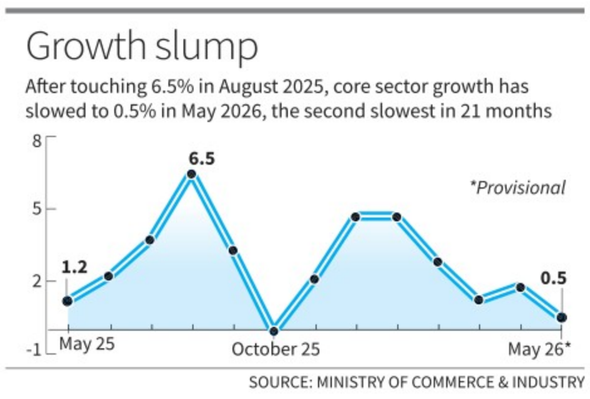
Core sector growth slows to 0.5% in May; coal, refinery products down amid crisis

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The growth in India's eight core industrial sectors slowed to 0.5% in May 2026, the second lowest in 21 months, official data showed. The data on the Index of Eight Core Industries released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday showed that five out of eight sectors contracted in May.

The only month in the past 21 months that saw a slower core sector growth was October 2025, when the index contracted 0.1%.

"Core sector growth in May was disappointing at 0.5% compared with 1.2% last year," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, said. "The lower growth number on a low base can be attributed more to the decline in production from the petroleum-based sector."



The crude oil sector contracted 4.6% in May, a worse performance than the contraction of 3.9% in April and of 1.8% in May last year. Similarly, the natural gas sector contracted 4.9% in May, its worst performance in three months.

The refinery products sector contracted by 8.7% in May, its worst performance in three-and-half years. According to Rahul Agrawal, principal economist at ICRA, this "partly reflects the fallout of the West Asia crisis". The coal sector, too, contracted by 9.3% – the worst in 10 months. "Crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products – all registered a decline in production," Mr. Sabnavis said. "This can be attributed more to the higher import of crude and softening of prices in the international market."

The fertilizer sector contracted for the third consecutive month in May, by 0.9%. This was, however, a stronger performance than the contraction of 8.6% in April and of 24.6% in March.

The steel, cement, and electricity sectors were the only ones that registered growth in May. Of these, the electricity sector saw growth accelerate to 8.7%, albeit on a low base since the sector contracted by 4.7% in May last year. The steel sector saw growth slowing to a 13-month low of 5%, while the cement sector quickened marginally to a growth of 8.4%.

CBSE students report higher marks after re-evaluation

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Students who had applied for re-evaluation of their Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 12 answer sheets, against the backdrop of discrepancies under the on-screen marking system, have reported a substantial increase in their scores after the results were released on Sunday.

While more than 1.6 lakh students had applied for re-evaluation, at least 1.39 lakh of them got their results on Sunday. The results of the rest will be released in phases soon, the CBSE has said.

FULL REPORT ON
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M BG-BGE

LA Olympics remains my ultimate target

The most-capped Indian player talks about his early days, the disappointments and the learnings from them; he looks forward to the tougher assignments ahead

GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Manpreet Singh

Uthra Ganesan

As a 20-year-old fresh-faced youngster, Manpreet Singh was still earning his national spurs when he travelled for the London Olympics in 2012. It was one of the most forgettable outings for the Indian hockey team, a culmination of decades of middling performances and, in many ways, more humiliating than not qualifying four years earlier.

From that baptism by fire to captaining the national team to its first Olympic medal in 41 years at Tokyo, to becoming the first Indian recipient of the FIH Player of the Year award (2019), to becoming the most-capped Indian hockey player with 413 outings – fifth overall and the only one active – Manpreet's journey has mirrored Indian hockey's evolvement over the last 15 years.

The 33-year-old, still one of the fittest players in the Indian dressing room and the world, is hungry for more.

Excerpts from an interview:

What does this mark mean to you?

It's a very proud moment. It's a huge honour to play for your country for so long. I have always wanted to give my 100 per cent every time I wear the India jersey and I have worked hard for it. Staying fit, be conscious of what to eat or not, lots of sacrifices. Staying away from family for months, missing out on all the major moments in my kids' lives, missing them - when they started walking, talking, everything I have missed. There have been lots of ups and downs but when you finally achieve something, reach a certain point, then all the sacrifices feel worth it and they make the result that much sweeter.

You are also the senior-most player in the side and a midfielder, both roles bringing added responsibility. Does this milestone change anything and does it matter as a player?

I don't think so. Anyone who knows me, also knows the kind of person I am and the number of caps or captain's band or anything else doesn't matter. It is a big honour, playing 413 matches for the country over 15 years, and I am proud of it but it doesn't change anything on field, you still have to go out there and perform. I have always believed in working as a team. As a senior, it's my responsibility to lift a youngster if he makes a mistake or is not feeling confident, help him come back to form.

My focus has always been on how to improve as a team and I will continue doing that. 413 matches is huge, you have to maintain your fitness and motivation for so long, you need the support of your entire team, the coaching staff, the federation over the years. It doesn't mean I stop listening to others because I have played for so long.

What have been the highest and lowest points of your career?

Highest point so far would undoubtedly be the Tokyo Olympics bronze medal. Even though we won again in Paris, Tokyo will always be special because it ended the medal drought for Indian hockey, it was a dream come true after 41 years. Every athlete dreams of an Olympic medal but for us, the glory days of Indian hockey was something we had only heard of, it was something the whole country had been waiting for, for so long.

As for the lowest, I think it would be the 2012 London, my first Olympics. Even though I was a youngster, we had gone with a lot of dreams and hopes of doing well but unfortunately we finished 12th and last there, without winning a single match.

Years ago you had said that every player wants recognition. You are now the most-capped Indian hockey player, a double Olympic medallist, one of the most recognisable names in Indian sports. Have you achieved your dream of being a star?

See, recognition always matters, there is nothing wrong in wanting it. I have always wanted to be part of the Indian team, to do well for the country, win medals. I always dreamt that whenever I retire and return to my village, people would recognise me, know me as an Olympian, as a medallist, appreciate me. Everyone wants that. When you put in so much effort and work so hard for so long, you want people to know about it and recognise that.

It is still important for me. I would want the coming generations to be inspired by me, just like I was inspired by Pargat Singh. I want to do enough to leave a legacy, do enough for the next generation to want to be like Manpreet, play like Manpreet, win like Manpreet, be famous like Manpreet. I want to be a role model for the youngsters, as much for the game as for my fitness. That is very important, for youngsters to understand that Manpreet at 33 is as fit as anyone much younger and be inspired by that. Just like everyone talks about Virat Kohli's fitness and training and diet at 36, I would want kids to talk about Manpreet's fitness and training.

But have I achieved my dream of being a star? Maybe, not really. There is a lot more to do still, there is the World Cup, Asian Games, then LA. So, yeah, long way to go still.

What would you say is the secret of your physical longevity and mental strength?

I think the hunger in me. That's both the biggest motivation and my biggest strength. The drive to play for the country, to keep getting better and most importantly, I do not want to regret anything when I decide to retire. I don't want to leave with any 'what ifs'. The hunger which I had as a kid is still there, there are a lot of things I still need to do - an Olympic gold, a World Cup medal are still dreams. Yes there have been a lot of ups and downs, there are more losses than wins but every loss teaches you something.

The biggest motivation off the field, undoubtedly, has been my family. My wife has been a pillar of support in my most difficult times, including when my father passed away in 2016. When my kids watch me on television, when I talk to them on phone and they tell me they are proud of me, nothing can beat that, it pushes me to do more because I always want them to be proud of their father.

They were in Paris also, they travel a lot to cheer me at tournaments. My elder daughter Jasmine is my biggest cheerleader. It pushes me to do better, to be a good role model so that they are proud of their father and understand that all the sacrifices and time away from them was worth it.

Hockey is often considered a poor man's sport. Have things changed financially from then to now?

A lot. When I first came into the national team in 2011, there was hardly any financial incentive. The only dream was being an India player. But HIL in 2013 changed things. It was a game-changer, it helped improve conditions a lot for me and my family. Like most hockey players, I also come from a poor background and had to struggle a lot but over the years, life has become better, the journey has become easier. I won't deny that things are a lot better now for hockey players.

The cash awards by Hockey India, individual rewards all have helped. Players have good jobs, there is financial stability. Earlier, no one wanted their kids to play hockey because there was nothing in it. But now things are different, kids are getting interested in hockey.

Talking about the present, how important is this year, how are the preparations so far?

This year is very important for us. Playing England and Pakistan in the Pro League will be useful because they are in our group at the World Cup, for which we will be back here next month. England have been doing well so those games will be important. Then there will be Asian Games which is the ticket to LA Olympics.

Preparations are going well, the matches against Germany and Netherlands were good in terms of the team's performance regardless of the results. We are excited about the World Cup and the Asian Games and I personally am very hopeful of a good result at the World Cup. It is important because it's been a very long time since we won a medal at the World Cup and we will try to do that this time.

Who have been the toughest opponents and teams for you?

When I first started playing, it used to feel that other teams were all very strong, very tough. Teams like Australia, with players like Jamie Dwyer or Mark Knowles, looked unbeatable. But I think things have changed a lot over the years, Indian hockey has improved a lot.

Now when we play Germany or Netherlands, we don't think whether we can match up to them. Now there is confidence that if we play well and stick to our plan and do the basics right, we can defeat any team. Every team is tough but every team is beatable. That is the mindset now. Belgium and Netherlands are among the toughest opponents in world hockey at the moment but if we give our 100 percent, we can defeat them.

It is far more difficult to think of individual players because hockey is a team game but if I had to, there is Arthur van Doren or Tom Boon in Belgium, Alexander Hendrickx is very dangerous with his drag-flicks. Holland has Jorrit Croon, Australia too has good players. It is difficult because every top team in the world has several great players.

A lot was said about you recently. Did it affect you in any way?

Yes there was a lot said and written in the last few months but I knew there was no point in thinking about stuff not in my control. What I had in my control was my fitness and I was clear I will not compromise on that. Whatever else happened, I was sure I won't let fitness be an issue for my exclusion. I can confidently say that I am as fit as anyone else at the moment and I want to play as long as I can maintain that. LA28 remains my ultimate target but I am also clear I will walk off the day I feel I am pulling the team down.

Does age matter?

No it doesn't, it's just a number. The world's most-capped player is Belgium's John-John Dohmen and he was 36-37 when he played at the Paris Olympics. Tom Boon is 36 right now and he has set his sights on LA28, I am three years younger! What is more important is how I take care of my body.

And there is no alternative. World hockey today is at a level where if you are not at peak fitness all the time, you cannot survive. I know I have to work extra hard to keep up with everyone else and I have worked a lot on my fitness over the years because if I don't I won't be able to remain in the team. It's really that simple - your fitness will decide your place in the side.

You said London 2012 was the lowest point of your career. If you had to look back and say something to the 20-year-old Manpreet, what would you say?

Nothing much, just keep playing the way you are, keep giving your 100 per cent every time you step out on the field. Never give up. That's the biggest lesson I learnt from London and that is the only advice I will give to my younger self and, in fact, to every youngster. There will be a lot of tough situations in life, on and off the field but come what may, don't give up, don't walk away unless you are completely incapable of standing up. That's my philosophy even now.

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Last date and time for receipt of tender for Sl No-07 of This Office Tender Notification No.47/2025-26, Dated 16.03.2026, has been postponed to 08.07.2026 upto 16.00Hours. Other terms and conditions remains unaltered. For more details please visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

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Government of Karnataka

KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI

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Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelopes are invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by State Mission Director, SBM (U) for :

S.N.	Name of Work	UBN No.	Estd Amt in Cr.
1	Design, Construction, Establishment and Operation of Carcass Utilization Plant of 6500 Ltrs capacity each in 4 Division Headquarters (Ajmer, Bikaner, Jaipur and Udaipur) and 5000 Ltrs capacity each in 2 Division Headquarters (Bharatpur and Kota) on Turnkey Basis and procurement of refrigeration unit Van and non refrigeration unit van in 41 district HQ ULBs under Budget Announcement 2025-26 up to 06.07.2026	1. DLB2627WLOB07249	87.49
2	Sewerage and Septage Management for sewer system with STPs and laying, jointing, testing and commissioning of Sewerage System in 24 ULBs of Cluster 1 to 5 including 1 year defect liability with 10 years O&M up to 07.07.2026	1. DLB2627WLOB07205 2. DLB2627WLOB07206 3. DLB2627WLOB07207 4. DLB2627WLOB07208 5. DLB2627WLOB07209	1055.74
3	Selection of Agency for "procurement, operation and maintenance of 127 mobile vans for plastic waste collection campaign and to collect plastic waste and distribution of cloth bags in exchange of plastic waste in 41 ULBs on Gross Cost Contract (GCC)" under Rajasthan Budget Announcement 2025-26" upto 06.07.2026	1. DLB2627SLOB07236	10.23
4	Bioremediation of Legacy Waste (Total 24.29 Lakh Cum) at old Dumpsites in 59 ULBs under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 Cluster 8 and 9 up to 06.07.2026	1. DLB2627WLOB07254 2. DLB2627WLOB07258	114.58

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) of the State; and LSG Department website.

DIPR/C/10603/2026 **State Mission Director, SBM (U)**

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)

Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Upper Tunga Project Division, Shimoga. Ph: 08182-254832
E-Mail:eeutpsmg@gmail.com

1.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2026-27/T.N.No-05	Dt: 20.06.2026
2.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2026-27/T.N.No-06	Dt: 20.06.2026
3.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/2026-27/T.N.No-07	Dt: 20.06.2026

SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the under signed invites tender through kpp-portal system from eligible contractors for three (03) works coming under Head of Account 4701 Upper Tunga Project and one(01) work under Head of Account Tunga Modernisation

1) Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is **Rs.296.15 lakhs (I. No.4535), Rs.90.47 lakhs(I. No.4455), Rs.41.28 lakhs (I. No.4532) and Rs.42.33 lakhs(I. No.4567) (excluding GST)**

2) Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender: **25.06.2026 up to 17.30hrs.**

3) Date for submission of filled tenders from **20.06.2026 to 29.06.2026 up to 17.29 hrs** (during office hours)

Further details on date of opening the tender /detail of work E.M.D. amount/terms and conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the Under signed during office hours or in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone no.08182-254832 Information can be obtained through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

DIPR/SMG/No-102-06/ zenkar/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P., Division, Shivamogga

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India, Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in, CIN : U24232RJ2011SGCO35067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. :- F.02 (447)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIB-09/2026-27/4456 Dated :- 16/06/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

S. No.	Item Name/ Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value Rs. in Crore	Last Time & Last date for bid submission
1	Drugs	Ref. No.: F.02 (447)/RMSCL/ Procurement/Drug/NIB-08/ 2026-27/4455 Dated : 16.06.2026	MSC2627GLRC00027	25.43 Crore	16.07.2026 upto 06.00 pm

Raj.Samwad/C/26/5343 **Executive Director (Procurement)**

भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, / अंतरिक्ष विभाग/ DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/ VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रूप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं./ Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

दिनांक/Date : 22.06.2026

ई–निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER

1. आइआइएसयू, वट्टीयुरकावु में कोणीय गति अनुकारक (एएमएस) के साथ एलएन2 तापीय कक्ष के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल कार्य)/ Construction of building for Angular Motion Simulator (AMS) with LN2 Thermal Chamber at IISU, Vattiyoorkavu (Civil works)/ **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/08/2026-27 Dt. 05.06.2026 (पी.ए.सी. /P.A.C: रु./Rs. 161.47 लाख/ Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading : दिनांक **08.07.2026** को **23:00** बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto **23:00 hrs. on 08.07.2026**

इच्छुक निविदाकार ब्यौरों के लिए **www.tenderwizard.in/isro** या **www.isro.gov.in** देखें। / Interested tenderers may visit **www.tenderwizard.in/isro** or **www.isro.gov.in** for details.

प्रधान, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी Head, CMG, VSSC

Government of Karnataka

Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.153/Works/2026-27/ Date:20.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works Details Carrying out civil/electrical works at various constituent units of the KVAFSU Bidar, 2) Tender Estimate Amount **Rs.17692306.00 (Excluding GST),** 3) Contractors eligibility details As mentioned e-portal, 4) Tender Amount Details **Rs.17692306.00 (Excluding GST),** 5) Cost of tender form and EMD details As mentioned e-portal, 6) Last date for submitting application **20.07.2026 up to 5.00 PM,** 7) Opening of financial bid **22.07.2026 at 11.30 AM,** 8) For more details contact office address, contract numbers Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446, 9) Website details e-procurement portal- https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Bidar/71/KSMC&A/2026-27 **Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar.**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website: www.kiadb.in

No.IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-18/1733/2026-27 Date:22-06-2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: Formation of Industrial Layout including construction of Roads, RCC Side drain, Cross Drainages, Retaining wall & HDPE Dual Water Supply pipe line at Sector-1 in Dobaspet Industrial Area, 7th Phase, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

- Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **09-07-2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/1300/CCL/2026-27

Sd/- Engineer-In-Chief, KIADB, Bengaluru

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2026 (OJEE - 2026)

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING OJEE WEB COUNSELLING FOR 2026-27

No: OJEE/282 **Date : 22.06.2026**

This is for the information of all concerned that OJEE Web-Based Counselling Process for **Lateral Entry courses for B.Tech, For Working Professionals and Integrated MBA,** are going to start from **24th June, 2026, 5:00 PM.**

Counselling for MBA, MCA, M.Sc Comp. Sc., M.Arch, M.Plan and all **M.Tech Programmes** are going to start from **25th June, 2026, 5:00 PM.**

Interested candidates having valid OJEE 2026 Rank, Valid CAT / MAT / XAT / ATMA / NIMCET / GATE Score/Rank are advised to visit OJEE websites (**www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com**) and see the detail **Tentative Counselling Schedule** for all above mentioned Programmes / courses.

They are further advised to carefully go through the documents, **"Counselling Brochure" and "Step-by-Step Procedure"**, available in the website to get detailed information about the entire counselling process and eligibility criteria.

All working professional candidates having valid OJEE rank and eligibility as per AICTE Guidelines shall participate in this counselling process. There will be no separate counselling for Working Professionals .

Sd/- Chairman, OJEE, ODISHA

14001/69/2627 OIPR-14001/14020/1/26-27/0003

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/11/2026-27 Date: 22.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works mention in the below table.

Sl. No.	Package Name	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs Including GST)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Completion Period (Including Monsoon Period)
1	Construction of MRF sheds at **Doddabidarakallu (Package –P1).**	**2090.00**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 19,90,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months
2	Construction of MRF shed at **Subbarayanapalya. (Package –P2).**	**1369.00**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 14,00,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months
3	Construction of MRF sheds at **Tarahunase (Package – P3)**	**4800.00**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 47,00,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **28.06.2026 before 16.00 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **29.06.2026 at 15:00hrs.** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **05.07.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **06.07.2026 at 16:30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/1298/2026-27

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my clients Sri. R. Adhikesavulu Naidu and Smt. Uma Naidu R have negotiated with Mr. Muniviraiah and others, residing at No.11, Kanakapura Main Road, Mukkodlu Vadrapalya, Thattaguppe, Bangalore for purchase of the land described in the schedule here below, on their representation that they are the absolute owners of the same.

Any person/s having any claim, right, title or interest of whatsoever manner with regard to the Schedule Property or anybody opposing the sale transaction may lodge such claim or objection, in writing with documentary proof to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this Notice, failing which my client would proceed to complete the sale transaction, presuming that there are no valid claims or objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Sy.No.11, measuring 2 Acre 19 Guntas, situated at Vaddarapalya Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on the; East by: Arbal Lourdhuswamy's Property; West by :Government Road; North by : Gramathana; South by : Road and Balekere Government channel.

Date : 22-06-2026,
Place : Bangalore

NARASIMHAMURTHY A S , Advocate,
No.56/A, 3rdCross, 24thMain,
J. P. Nagar 2nd Phase,
Bangalore-78, Ph: 9886434287

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the schedule property from assignor's /agreement holders Mr. Raghu Madhu Devang and Mr. Bharath Kumar S and they had entered into an Agreement to Sell dated 27-07-2023 with the owner's Sri. T Shivaraj and others – all represented by GPA Holder M/s. Sobha Limited AND Nambiar Builders Private Limited – represented by its GPA Holder M/s. Sobha Limited (confirming party) AND M/s. Sobha Limited (Developer)

Further, Mr. Raghu Madhu Devang and Mr. Bharath Kumar S represents that they have lost the **ORIGINAL AGREEMENT TO SELL DATED 27-07-2023** and hence, they lodged a Police Complaint, vide Lost Report No. 1947849/2025 dated 09-12-2025.

My client intends to avail financial assistance from SBI by mortgaging the schedule property. If anybody finds the same, may return to the below address.

If any person/s or financial institutions have any objections, claims, right, title, interest over the schedule property, may file their objections with the undersigned alongwith documentary proof within **FIFTEEN (15) DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, my client will proceed to complete the bank transaction without being liable for any claims put forth thereafter.

SCHEDULE

Two-bedroom residential apartment unit bearing **No.B4-3074, 7th Floor of "SOBHA BROOKLYN TOWERS – TOWN PARK PHASE 5 – WING 3"** having a carpet area of **522.68 sqft,** balcony area of **20.24 sqft,** totally measuring **835.05 sqft** of super built up area inclusive of 292.18 sqft of proportionate share in common areas alongwith **One Car Parking Space and** undivided 212.08 sft interest in the schedule A property - converted survey nos. 51/1, 51/2, 52/1, 52/2 and 53, at Yadavanahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, E-khatha No.150200101500121822, totally measuring 8 acres 25 guntas / 34,894.74 sq mtrs.

Smt. Renuka R Desai,
Mr. Rohit Desai, Advocates
Manu Law Chambers
No.948/1, 2nd Main Road,
Rajajinagar 4th Block Entrance,
BENGALURU – 560 010.
BENGALURU, Date: 23.06.2026

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/482/2026-27 Date: 22.06.2026

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that above referred Tender Notification No: DGM-1/ BSWML/TEND/10/2026- 27, issued by Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML on 05.06.2026 has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/1299/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ), ನಾರಾಯಣ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಶಾಶಿಇ(ಪಪೂ):ಉನಿ:ಎಸ್ಎಸ್:ಸಪಪೂಕಾ:smartclass.eqp:2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.06.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಬಿಡ್ (ರಿಕ್ವೆಸ್ಟ್ ಫಾರ್ ಪ್ರಪೋಸಲ್) ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರು ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣ, ಹಾರ್ಡವೇರ್, ನೆಟ್ ವರ್ಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು 1 ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಗಿಸಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ 3 ವರ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋರ್ಟಲ್ (**https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಘಟನೆಗಳ ಕ್ಯಾಲೆಂಡರ್: 1. ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.06.2026 2**. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **08.07.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆ**. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಿವರಗಳು, ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇ–ಪಾವತಿಗಾಗಿ GOK ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಒಪ್ಪಂದದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಹೆಲ್ಪ್ಡೆಸ್ಕ್ 080–25501216/ 080–25501227 ಅನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ)
ವಾ.ಶಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/366/ಕರಡಿಸಾಯ/2026–27 ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Gadag

No.107, District Administration Bhavan, Gadag - 582101
e-mail- dswogadag@gmail.com

No.DDSWD/OSS/S.6/2026-27 Date:- 20-06-2026

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender is invited through e-procurement in two cover system from Outsource Agency/Firms for availing temporarily for a period of completion of one year from the date of isssue of order, services of various Group 'C' & 'D' posts of Data entry operator, Staff Nurse, Cooks, Kitchen Assistants, Watchmen, Peons, Cleaners. Approx. 358 Posts vacant in Pre-matric & Post-matric Hostels/Morarji Desai/Kittur Rani Chennamma Residential Schools and Offices Managed by Social Welfare Department in Gadag District for the year 2026-27. **Tender No: SWD/2026-27/SE0253,** Approx. amount put to Tender: **Rs. 1030.85 lakhs** and E.M.D. **Rs. 15.00 lakhs**. Tender Document can be availed and submitted in website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **20-06-2026 to 21-07-2026 upto 5.00 pm.** For further information please contact office phone No.08372-231828

Sd/- (NANDA HANABARATTI)
Deputy Director,
Social Welfare Department, Gadag

DIPR/Gadag/132/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ

ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ–562114, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 27931221
Email- itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Website. www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ: ನಸಹೊ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಪಿಆರ್/ /2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20/06/2026

"ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್ಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ 2026–27ನೇ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ಏಕ/ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರು/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಸ್ ರವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
01	**DMA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT59203 /CALL-2**	49.00	83,100/-
02	**DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59211**	16.00	33,500/–

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ಕ್ಕೆ 02/07/2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 02 ಕ್ಕೆ 01/07/2026** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ **02 ಕ್ಕೆ 03/07/2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ಕ್ಕೆ **04/07/2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited (Encore ARC)

acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC-Bank-035-Trust
Encore ARC Corporate Office Address: 5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector 44, Gurugram 122002, Haryana

Public Notice for e-Auction

e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ('SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & proviso to Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. ("ABCL") to secure dues in the loan account since assigned to Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) acting in its capacity as the Trustee of EARC-Bank-035-Trust (**"Secured Creditor"**), the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 15.07.2026 at 11:00 a.m., for recovery of Rs.2,94,28,308/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Four Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Eight Only) as on 31-01-2026 together with further interest from 01.02.2026 at contractual rate and other admissible costs and charges due to the Encore ARC (Secured Creditor) from Borrowers viz **M/s.Rentprop4u Mgt Services Private Limited, Mr Nagaraj M, Mrs Asha M and Mr Ravi M.**

The description of the mortgaged immovable properties, the details of Reserve Price for the Secured Assets, the Earnest Money Deposit & Minimum Increment Amount in Bidding Process are as under:

Item Sr No.	Name of Account	Description of Property	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Increment in Bidding Process (In Rs.)
1	**M/s.Rentprop4u Mgt Services Private Limited, Mr Nagaraj M, Mrs Asha M and Mr Ravi M.**	All that piece and parcel of the land and building at Extract of Form B Property register No. 2825/165/116/61/44/5-36-5 assigned to Khaneshumari Nos. 165 & 116, Katha No. 61/44/5-36-5, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 60 feet, situated at Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, comprising of a building, and bounded on: East by : Property belongs to Mr. Nagaraj & Road; West by : Property belongs to Mr. Sadashivaiah; North by : Property belongs to Mr. Muniayappa & Mr. Nagaraju; South by : Property belongs to Mr. Chowdappa.	**2,25,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Five Lakhs Only)**	**22,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Lakhs Only)**	**50,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)**
2	**M/s.Rentprop4u Mgt Services Private Limited, Mr Nagaraj M, Mrs Asha M and Mr Ravi M.**	All that piece and parcel of the land and building at Site No. 108, Katha No.117, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, formed in land bearing Sy No.117, situated at Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, comprising of a building, and bounded on: East by : Road; West by : Property belongs to Mr. Vasu; North by : Karadamma Temple; South by : Property belongs to Mr. Ashwath.	**71,10,000/- (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Ten Thousand Only)**	**7,10,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Ten Thousand Only)**	**50,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)**

Date of Inspection of Secured Assets	**03/07/2026 between 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**
Last Date of Submission of online Bid	**Before 3.00 PM on 14/07/2026**
Date & time of e-Auction	**15/07/2026 at 11.00 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each as per Terms & Conditions mentioned below. Auction Website: https://bankeauctions.com**

In case the e-Auction date is declared public holiday then the date will be automatically extended to the very next working day.

Since Encore ARC is acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC-BANK-035 -Trust only, any reference of its name in this Public Notice should be construed accordingly.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Encore ARC's website i.e. **https://www.encorearc.com and https://bankeauctions.com**

Interested bidders may contact Authorised officer of Encore ARC Mr B.M. Nagaraju, on Mobile no. 83840 74164 and Mr. K.Nagendran Mobile No. 91762 91717 for any further information / query.

Date: 22-06-2026
Place: Chennai

B M Nagaraju
Authorised Officer
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited

Tenders soon for 75-km elevated roads, East-West Tunnel Road

The solution to the city's traffic congestion is comprehensive plans, including metro networks and tunnel roads, overlapped by elevated corridors, says Bengaluru Developement Minister Krishna Byre Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tender works for the 22-km East-West Tunnel Road project connecting K.R. Puram to Nayandahalli will be floated soon, said Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

"The solution to Bengaluru's traffic congestion is comprehensive plans, including metro networks and tunnel roads, overlapped by elevated corridors," the Minister said, addressing the media after reviewing B-SMILE works on Monday.

Additionally, elevated roads will be given priority. "Of the target of 150 km of elevated corridors across the city, tenders will soon be floated for 75 km of corridor works, with each elevated road ranging between 2 km and 15 km," the Minister said.

He added that elevated corridors longer than 10 km will be tolled. "The primary roads will still be open. That is the public's right. We are not stopping them from using those roads, but if one needs to go faster, tolls have to be paid. This is just to ease traffic for those who need it," the Minister said.

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda participating in a progress review meeting with B-SMILE officials in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Private companies will fund the projects, and the viability gap funding will be provided by the government.

Bengaluru has 1.2 crore vehicles, he said, adding that the number is increasing every day. "No matter how much we expand the metro, people will still be on the roads. We need to provide the facilities that the people need. We need to develop major roads, high-density roads, and outer ring roads. Along with all these, we need to identify traffic problems and provide comprehensive solutions," he said.

Building flyovers or tunnels alone would not solve congestion, but would only shift it, the Minister said, stressing the need for solutions like overlapping elevated corridors with tunnel roads, apart from improving metro and bus connections, and improving the roads leading to these public transport sites.

"Future challenges must also be considered while addressing current issues," he said, adding that the tunnel road and elevated corridor projects are "expert and research-backed solutions".

ORR redevelopment

The Minister said discussions around the need for the redevelopment of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) have been going on. "There is no hesitation in moving forward with the project, but its timing is being considered carefully as metro construction is ongoing. If both are taken up simultaneously, people will face a lot of inconvenience because of the high daily traffic, especially in the IT corridors," he said.

Six-month deadline to finish white-topping work, says Krishna Byre Gowda

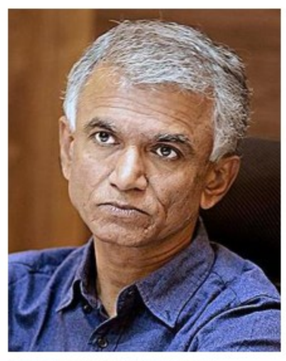
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

All white-topping works currently under way in Bengaluru must be completed within six months, said Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Monday.

He said that over 50% of the white-topping work has been completed, while an additional 300 km of white-topping work will be undertaken. "Areas for the additional 300 km of work will be identified soon, and the work will begin accordingly," he said.

The Minister said that it was the Congress which came up with the idea of white-topping roads. "White-topping of 196 km was approved during the Congress party's previous tenure, and 120 km was approved during this tenure. Of the 120 km, 58 km has already been completed," Mr. Gowda said.

Addressing the media after reviewing the white-topping works, the Minister said that white-topping was intended to provide durable, pothole-free roads and to reduce the need for repeated resurfacing.



Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda FILE PHOTO

"While the cost of white-topping is around ₹10 crore per kilometre, it is expected to be more economical over the long term compared to repeated asphalt resurfacing," he said. "The best part of white-topping is that Bengaluru will get good, usable footpaths in 90% of cases. It is a scientifically designed and supported solution. Once it is done, the traffic movement will also be better."

Mr. Gowda argued that people often complain about slower traffic and ongoing construction while the work is under way, but stressed the need to focus on the long-term solution.

Delays

The Minister also pulled up officials, asking them why the work has been consistently delayed. "What exactly is the issue? Delays in work are generally the result of payment delays. So, I even inquired whether it was related to payment matters, but the GBA Chief Commissioner told me that major payments have been cleared."

"A six-month deadline has been set, and all works will be completed within it, while other areas will be identified in parallel," the Minister said.

The Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Limited has been given the responsibility and will be taking up the works, he added.

'No compromise on quality of police infrastructure'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Construction of the state-of-the-art Central Command Centre in Bengaluru has reached the final stage

Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday directed officials of the Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (KSPH&IDCL) to ensure that residential and office buildings being constructed for the police and other departments are completed within the stipulated timeframe without compromising on quality.

Chairing a progress review meeting of the KSPH&IDCL, the Minister instructed officials to launch Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes to help the children of departmental staff prepare for competitive examinations. He said the required guidance, training and facilities should be provided to support their success in various competitive tests.

Under the ₹2,000-crore Police Gruha-2025 housing scheme aimed at improving residential facilities for police personnel, a total of 10,034 housing units have been sanctioned. Of these, 3,496 units have been completed, while construction of another 2,030 units is under way, according to a release.

Construction of the state-of-the-art Central Command Centre in Bengaluru has reached the final stage and is expected to be inaugurated soon. In addition, new police stations, District Police Office (DPO) buildings and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) facilities are being constructed across various districts.

Govt. orders tough measures to make State drug-free

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday directed officials to take stringent measures to curb the drug menace and protect youth from substance abuse, asserting that the State government is committed to building a drug-free Karnataka.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, attended by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, senior police officers and heads of various departments, Mr. Kharge stressed the need for coordinated action involving law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, local bodies and technology-driven governance systems.

The Minister instructed the police to take strict action against drug suppliers and those involved in trafficking networks, ensuring rigorous enforcement of all relevant laws. He also called for large-scale awareness campaigns on the dangers of drug abuse, extending beyond urban centres to rural areas through schools, colleges, factories and gram panchayats.

Home Minister Priyank Kharge, with Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem, during a meeting in Bengaluru on Monday.

Emphasising inter-departmental coordination, he said the fight against drugs cannot be left to a single department. He directed departments such as Home, Higher Education, School Education, Medical Education, Labour, Social Welfare and Rural Development to work together using advanced technology and data-sharing mechanisms.

The Minister also asked officials to leverage the Karnataka State Wide Area Network (KSWAN 3.0), which is being expanded to all gram panchayats, to strengthen monitoring and awareness programmes at the grassroots level.

To encourage public participation, Mr. Kharge directed officials to further strengthen the Janaspandana (iPGRS) grievance redressal platform to enable citizens to report drug-related activities. Complaints, he said, should be mapped to field-level officers and acted upon within stipulated timelines under strict service-level agreements.

Second worker still missing four days after Varthur STP tragedy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cleaning work at the STP was being carried out by a private contractor engaged by Tech WABAG

The body of the second worker who fell into a sewage pumping wet well at the Belagere Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) near Varthur remains untraced even four days after the incident. A massive search operation involving around 150 personnel from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Karnataka Fire and Emergency Services, police, and staff of the accused company continued till Monday evening.

The police said the operation would resume on Tuesday to trace Brijesh Kumar, 27, who went missing after falling into the 40-foot-deep sewage pumping wet well on June 18. "The search operation continued throughout the day with specialised rescue teams. Efforts will resume tomorrow morning," a police officer said on Monday.

Meanwhile, the police said representatives of the accused company had not responded to notices issued by investigators, citing their involvement in the ongoing search operation. "We will issue another notice tomorrow," an officer added.

The cleaning work at the STP was being carried out by a private contractor engaged by Tech WABAG. The police have booked the company on charges of causing death by negligence, alleging violations of mandatory safety protocols for confined-space operations. The body of Agilan Mohan, the supervising engineer who also fell into the wet well, was recovered in the early hours of Saturday.

75,487 traffic e-challan cases settled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 75,487 pending traffic e-challan cases were settled across Karnataka on Sunday and Monday under the State government's recently announced 50% fine concession scheme.

A press note stated ₹2.24 crore was collected through various prescribed modes of payment during the two-day period.

The concession was granted through a Government Order dated June 4, which provides a 50% reduction in fines for pending traffic e-challan cases.

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LEGAL NOTICE

CCH-6 HG: 30.07.2026
IN THE COURT OF THE XXIV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
P & SC No. 259/2026

PETITIONERS:

1. Smt. Florence Deepamala Michael, W/o Late Newton Michael, Aged about 69 years, Residing at No. 2257, 4th A Main, 1st Cross, BDA Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Vimanapura, Bengaluru - 560017.

2. Sri. Martin Charles Michael, S/o Late Newton Michael, Aged about 36 years, Residing at Flat No. E1, Ground Floor, Subiksha Daffodil, Rustombagh Main Road, Off Old Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560017.

3. Sri. Benjamin Victor Michael, S/o Late Newton Michael, Aged about 34 years, Residing at No. 2257, 4th A Main, 1st Cross, BDA Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Vimanapura, Bengaluru - 560017.

-V/S-

RESPONDENT: NIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above-named Petitioners have filed the above Petition under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, seeking grant of a Succession Certificate in their favour in respect of the Schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned Schedule belonged to Late Sri. Newton Michael, who died intestate on 18.05.2025 at Bengaluru, leaving behind the Petitioners as his legal heirs.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through a duly instructed pleader **on 30.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** and show cause, if any, against the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners. Failing which, the Petition shall be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE
(SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT HELD BY SRI. NEWTON MICHAEL)

Name of Account Holder : NEWTON MICHAEL
Account Number : 016901580905
Type of Account : Savings Bank Account
Address of Account Holder : #3, Ground Floor, 10th A Main Road, 2nd Stage, 1st Cross, Indiranagar, Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560038.
Name of Bank : ICICI Bank Limited
Branch : 947, HAL II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038.
State & Country : Karnataka, India

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 16th day of June 2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Address for Service
PRASHANTH MURTHY S.G., Advocate
'White House', FF-05, First Floor,
Opp. SBI Head Office, St. Marks Road,
Bangalore-560001.
prashanthmurthy.adv@outlook.com
Mobile : 9535326610

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUN. 23		
RISE	05:55	SET 18:49
RISE	13:26	SET 00:46
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 24		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	14:14	SET 01:23
THURSDAY, JUN. 25		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	15:04	SET 02:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Fake RTO e-challan link costs private firm employee ₹6.79 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 51-year-old private firm employee from HRBR Layout lost ₹6.79 lakh to cyber fraudsters after clicking on a fake RTO e-challan link sent through WhatsApp.

According to a complaint registered at the East CEN Police Station, the victim received a WhatsApp message on June 16 from mobile number +91 6377676697, purportedly regarding a pending RTO e-challan.

Believing the message to be a genuine traffic violation notice, he opened the link. Soon after, unauthorised transactions were carried out from his bank account without his knowledge or consent. A total of ₹6,79,500 was fraudulently debited from the account. He also noticed a credit transaction of ₹2 lakh in the same account during the course of the suspicious activity.

The victim told the police that the money represented his hard-earned savings, which he had earmarked for his daughter's education expenses for the 2026-27 academic year. After discovering the fraud, he approached the cybercrime police seeking recovery of the stolen funds and action against those responsible.

The police have registered a case under Sections 66(C) and 66(D) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, for cheating by personation and online fraud. A probe is under way to trace the perpetrators and to track the funds.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE,
AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE - 560007
PHONE: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited for **Purchase of PA equipments** at Army Public School ASC Centre & College (APS ASC C&C). Tender Enquiry/ Form can be collected from school office after payment of Rs.300/- (Demand Draft in favour of APS ASC C&C) from 23 Jun 2026 to 02 Jul 2026 (0900hrs to 1215hrs). Last date and time to submit filled tender form is 02 Jul 2026 at 1230 hrs.

Sd/-, P O / Member 1, For School Mgt.

No.46/2/2026-ADMIN-1

Government of India
Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
Atal Akshaya Urja Bhawan (AAUB),
Opp. CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110 003.

Applications are invited for filling up the post of 03 (three) Scientists D and 03 (three) Scientists C in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in the Level 12 **(Rs. 78,800 - 2,09,200/-)** and Level 11 **(Rs. 67,700 - 2,08,700/-)**, respectively, of the 7th CPC pay matrix on deputation/ short-term contract basis. Full details of the vacancy circular are available on Ministry of New and Renewable website www.mnre.gov.in

The last day for receipt of application in prescribed format at the address mentioned above is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

Sd/- (Rajat Yadav)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

cbc28101/11/0001/2627

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/35 Dated: 16-06-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
1) Enhancement of LHB / ICF coach maintenance facilities at Mysuru. 2) Ashokapuram Construction of service rooms for C&W activities at Ashokapuram station - Electrical arrangements.	Rs. 14,47,966.78

Last date for submission of bids for **Tender: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07-07-2026**

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/36 Dated: 17-06-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
Kabakaputtur - Provision of Platform Shelter (IRS) to full-length at PF No. 1 at Kabakaputtur Railway station.	Rs. 31,68,783.44

Last date for submission of bids for **Tender: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 08-07-2026**

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/37 Dated: 17-06-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Integrated power supply at 22 LC Gates, RTU for 15 Interlocked LC gates - Electrical arrangements.	Rs. 15,54,938.00

Last date for submission of bids for **Tender: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 08-07-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer General / Mysuru
PUB/232/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client SRI. GOPINATH T., S/o. Sri. Thiyagarajan has interested in purchasing the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner M/s. Balaji Builders, a partnership firm rep. by its Partners 1) Sri. A. Ramappa, 2) Sri. A Lakshmappa, 3) Smt. V Shylaja and 4) Smt. L. Roopa, having its office at No. 24, Sunny Brooks Layout, near Wipro Corporate Office, Sarjapur Main Road, Doddakannahalli, Bangalore-560035.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

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CM YK M BG-BGE

World is moving on from paying publishers – India should too

The geopolitics of scholarly publishing has shifted more in the past 18 months than in the past two decades; China is building sovereignty, the U.S. is scrutinising costs, Australia is prioritising immediate access, Europe and Africa are building public infrastructure, but where is India?

Moumita Koley

The European Commission has concluded that the long-term solution is to create publicly owned publishing infrastructure and remove commercial publishers from the equation entirely. A view of the Maughan Library round reading room at King's College London. COLIN (CC BY-SA)

A number of activities are underway in the global scholarly publishing policy space. Within a span of 18 months, from late 2024 to mid-2026, the United States has placed the economics of academic publishing under Congressional scrutiny, Australia has mandated immediate open access to all publicly funded peer-reviewed research, Europe has launched a publicly owned publishing platform called Open Research Europe, and China has begun building an integrated domestic scholarly publishing ecosystem explicitly designed to redirect research prestige and publishing revenue away from foreign publishers.

India, meanwhile, committed ₹6,000 crore over three years to pay those same publishers for access to knowledge – a considerable part of which was generated by its own researchers.

The contrast is not incidental. It reflects an essential divergence in how the world's major research-producing nations are thinking about knowledge sovereignty. And it raises a question India's science policy community has not yet answered with sufficient seriousness: what comes after 'One Nation One Subscription' – and are we really building towards it?

Building sovereignty

As Ashutosh Ghildiyal, Ning Zhang, Gareth Dyke, and Yanli Wang wrote in *The Scholarly Kitchen*, China's strategy is elaborate. In its vision, the country is no longer simply a major contributor to global research output but is increasingly a central actor shaping the future of scholarly publishing.

To that end, China is changing research evaluation practices by discouraging metrics like the 'impact factor', investing in journal infrastructure, instituting a credible peer-review system, and increasing international visibility. (A journal's impact factor is meant to show its impact on the field based on how much the papers it publishes are cited.) As a result, China wishes to position its domestic journals to compete globally.

The country has also made policy choices to encourage Chinese researchers to publish in domestic journals. They include evaluating research by its quality rather than by the journal it appeared in and paying attention to whether research is addressing national needs.

As part of this upgrade, the second phase of its Journal Excellence Action Plan, China is building an integrated scholarly publishing ecosystem in which funding, publication venues, evaluation systems, editorial networks, and policy incentives reinforce one another. As a result, it plans to create more than 400 world-class Chinese-owned journals, capture publishing revenues currently flowing to foreign publishers, and establish Chinese platforms as credible alternatives to the likes of *Nature*, *Science*, and *Cell*.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences, which has more than 50,000 researchers across 100 institutes, also announced in early 2026 that it would stop paying article processing charges (APCs) for more than 30 high-cost international journals, explicitly including *Nature Communications*, *Science Advances*, and *Cell Reports*. The APC is a fee levied by journals to publish open-access papers; the fee is supposed to 'compensate' the revenue the journal will lose since others won't have to buy the paper to read it. Each of these three journals charges over $5,000 per paper in APCs.

The message to publishers is clear: China will not subsidise the prestige economy of foreign publishers while building its own. The message to its researchers is equally clear: publishing in domestic journals will count for career progression and should not be treated as a second-class choice.

Checking expenses

The situation in the U.S. is more volatile and ideologically complex. A congressional hearing in April brought together lawmakers, researchers, and publishing industry representatives to examine the rise of paper mills and the costs of open-access publishing. The questions included whether the U.S. government is getting enough value for the billions it spends annually on journal subscriptions and APCs, and whether the current system serves the public interest.

The Office of Management and Budget proposed curtailing the subscription and journal publication costs, including APCs and other fees, and suggested disallowing them under federal awards. While policy has yet to be changed, the fact remains that the U.S. government is viewing journal publishers' profits – and whose margins rival those of Big Tech – as a fiscal and transparency concern rather than solely as an open-access one.

This scrutiny offers both a policy opportunity and a cautionary tale for India. If the world's two most powerful research-funders are reconsidering what they are paying for scholarly publishing, the negotiating environment that has kept publisher pricing confidential and non-negotiable is beginning to shift.

A clear new mandate

As it happens, Australia has moved with the least ambiguity of any major research system. The Australian Research Council (ARC) Open Access Policy, especially the v2026.1 update, takes effect on July 1, 2026, and requires journal articles and conference papers arising from ARC-funded research to be made openly accessible immediately upon publication, with no exceptions.

Crucially, the compliance burden falls on the organisations administering the grants – i.e. the universities and research institutions. The policy is aligned with large international funding bodies such as the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Wellcome Trust in the U.K. This matters because it means that when Australian researchers co-author with U.S. or U.K. colleagues, a single rights-retention approach serves all funder requirements simultaneously, reducing the transaction costs that have previously allowed publishers to exploit policy fragmentation across borders.

The ARC first introduced its policy in 2013, and the 2026 version represents the culmination of a decade-long trajectory from encouragement to hard mandate. It is also careful to mention green open access: once ready, a copy of the paper will be archived in an openly accessible repository. Aside from guaranteeing access, doing so will also allow the paper's authors to retain the rights to it.

Publicly owned infrastructure

Europe's approach is also ambitious and relevant to what India should be building towards. Instead of negotiating with existing publishers – including the 'One Nation One Subscription' scheme – or requiring researchers to publish their papers to be open access by paying an APC, the European Commission has concluded that the long-term solution is to create publicly owned publishing infrastructure that removes commercial publishers from the equation entirely.

Open Research Europe, which is the European Commission's own publishing platform, is entering a new phase backed by a nearly €17 million budget for 2026-2031, co-funded by the European Commission by up to €10 million. The operating platform will be provided by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (better known as CERN). The platform is expected to begin operating as a collectively supported publishing service later this year. Once it is live, researchers from 11 participating national research systems – Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland – will be able to publish without paying.

India's stated ambition to become more self-sufficient is inconsistent with indefinitely subsidising a small group of foreign commercial publishers to access knowledge produced by Indian researchers with Indian public funds

This is open access but it is also the European research ecosystem taking back the publishing function that it had outsourced to commercial publishers over the last four decades.

In parallel with Open Research Europe, Europe has operationalised the diamond open access model at scale. In this paradigm, a journal publishes open access papers without levying an APC; the costs are instead borne by the funders and the research institutions. With some support from the French National Research Agency, the European Diamond Capacity Hub needs to strengthen diamond open-access publishing infrastructure across Europe.

What ONOS does and does not do

India's 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme, which has been operational since January 2025, was a genuine step forward in addressing a real and urgent problem. ONOS provides access to more than 13,000 journals from 30 publishers to approximately 6,300 government, academic, and research institutions at a total committed budget of ₹6,000 crore over three years (2025-2027). For researchers at tier-2 and tier-3 institutions who have never had access to the journals their fields require, this is transformative.

However, while ONOS solves the reading problem, it does not address the publishing problem. ONOS comes with an APC fund of ₹150 crore per year, replenished from what India allocates for research, which is already dwindling. Further, with more than half of research worldwide already being freely accessible, a significant proportion of what ONOS is paying to access is already available at zero cost. That is, India is partly paying ₹6,000 crore to access content that is already free and partly to subsidise a subscription model whose foundations are being dismantled everywhere else in the world.

The structural problem runs deeper. ONOS is opaque on publisher pricing, protection against future cost inflation, investment in Indian journals, and a post-2027 strategy. Every future negotiation is to be conducted from a position of demonstrated dependence, with journal publishers aware that India has no credible alternative – and that the political cost of losing ONOS access is too high for any government to bear.

In this sense, ONOS should be seen as a bridge, not a destination.

India's stated ambition to become more self-sufficient is inconsistent with indefinitely subsidising a small group of foreign commercial publishers to access knowledge produced by Indian researchers with Indian public funds. A better strategy would be to combine immediate green open-access mandates for publicly funded research, rights retention policies for researchers, more investments in Indian journals and publishing platforms, transparent APC expenses, and participating in international efforts to develop community-governed publishing infrastructure.

Window is now

The geopolitics of scholarly publishing has shifted more in the last 18 months than in the last two decades. China is building sovereignty. The U.S. is scrutinising costs. Australia is prioritising immediate access. Europe is building public infrastructure. Africa is also moving forward with local infrastructure, and Latin America was and still is the leader in self-reliant, community-governed local publishing infrastructure.

The direction of change across every major research system is the same: away from commercial dependencies and towards public ownership, public access, and public benefits.

In this context, India has both an opportunity and a time constraint. ONOS has established that the Government of India recognises knowledge access as a public good worth funding at scale. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation also has a mandate to reform the conditions in which Indian science reports its findings. Thus, India has the political legitimacy to push back against publishers' pricing in ways that would have seemed radical five years ago.

(Moumita Koley is a senior research analyst at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. moumita.chem@gmail.com)

A scientist works on the MID instrument that researchers used in a new study to 'see' atoms vibrated by a laser pulse. EUROPEAN XFEL/JAN HOSAN

Laser strums atoms in quest for better computers

Vasudevan Mukunth

The world is constantly looking for faster and more efficient computers. Since the technologies of today have nearly maximised the use of electric currents for this purpose, scientists are looking beyond.

One critical area that may fit our needs is called strain engineering: it uses mechanical pressure at the atomic level to alter a material's properties. That is, by physically squeezing or stretching the grid of atoms – called the lattice – scientists can change how a material conducts electricity or stores magnetic information.

To reach the speeds required for next-generation technology, however, these mechanical changes must happen trillions of times per second, or at terahertz (THz) frequencies.

The main challenge to high-frequency strain engineering in metals is the behaviour of free electrons. When a metal is struck by a fast laser pulse, the electrons absorb the energy. In most metals, these electrons move so quickly that they spread the energy across the material before the pulse can exert a localised mechanical force. This delocalisation prevents the formation of high-frequency strain waves.

In particular, THz-frequency vibrations are needed for advanced applications like spintronics – a field that uses the magnetic spin of electrons rather than their charge to store and move data.

'That surprised us'

A new study by researchers from France, Germany, and Sweden, published in *Nature Communications*, has reported a way to use laser pulses to induce THz waves. The researchers used a superlattice: atoms of platinum and copper atoms arranged in alternating layers, each just a few nanometres thick. They chose these metals because of their contrasting electronic properties: platinum can hold a large amount of electronic energy while copper allows electrons to move quickly.

Using ultrafast X-ray diffraction, the team observed the atoms moving in real-time following a laser pulse. And they found that they could set the atoms vibrating in a coherent way at a frequency of 1 THz with a strain amplitude of 1%. That is, the atoms were displaced by 1% on average from their original positions. This is considered large.

Crucially, the team found that electron pressure, rather than heat, to be the driving force. When the laser hit the platinum layers, the electrons gained energy and immediately exerted a physical pressure against the atomic lattice. "That surprised us. The oscillation is not caused by the pressure of the heated lattice, but by electron pressure, particularly in the platinum layers," Jan-Etienne Pudell of European XFEL, the facility that provided the ultrafast X-ray diffraction, said in a press note.

The study showed that electron pressure is a dominant and engineerable mechanism that can be used to rapidly 'kick' atoms into motion.

Nanostructured materials

The discovery is an advance in the broader field of thermoacoustic metamaterials. These are nanostructured materials designed to manipulate sound and heat in ways that do not occur in nature.

The study also demonstrated that these effects can be achieved in materials created by sputtering. Sputtering is a standard industrial process used to coat everything from microchips to glass. That thermoacoustic metamaterials can be produced using cost-effective, scalable manufacturing suggests the technology could move from the laboratory to the factory floor relatively quickly.

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for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

Hundreds of farmers join rally against Bidadi Township Project

The rally marks the first large-scale farmers' demonstration; local protests have been ongoing for over 460 days

The Hindu Bureau
BIDADI

More than 1,000 farmers from at least nine districts embarked on a bike rally from BGS Circle in Bidadi to Bairamangala on Monday. The rally was held in response to a call by the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) in support of farmers protesting against the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township, popularly known as the Bidadi Township Project. The contingent covered approximately 10 km before the farmers halted for a convention at a designated venue near Bairamangala Circle. This marked the first large-scale farmers' agitation, although local farmers have been protesting at a designated site in Bairamangala village for over 460 days.

The Karnataka government is set to acquire 9,600 acres of land for the project, including more than 7,200 acres of farmland. Nearly two lakh trees are likely to be felled The Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA), the project-implementing agency, has issued a final notification for the acquisition of 519 acres of land across three villages. The GBDA is expected to issue final notifications for more villages soon.

Following this development, farmers' groups from across the State extended their support by participating in the rally. Farmers arrived from the Bengaluru South district, Bengaluru Rural district, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, and surrounding districts. The convention was attended by farmer leaders from across the State, including those from Raichur, Vijayapura, and Hubballi, among others. While hundreds arrived on bikes and in cars, more than 500 farmers travelled by train from distant places. Local farmers arrived on tractors to join the rally. The rally was led by farmers' leader Badagalapura Nagendra and supported by Melukote MLA Darshan Puttannaiah. As it commenced amid tight security, slogans against Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is spearheading the project, echoed throughout the route.

Farmers intensified their protest against the Bidadi Township Project by undertaking a bike rally to Bidadi, under the banner of 'Bairamangala Chalo', on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Farmers' action plan

- Demand that the government scrap the Bidadi Township Project and the proposed land acquisition
- Demand the introduction of a State land-use policy
- Seek the release of a White Paper on the township project
- Hold a public hearing chaired by retired High Court judges
- Organise a "Vidhana Soudha Chalo" protest during the Monsoon Session

In a symbolic move, the rally halted for about 15 minutes near the Bidadi Industrial Area as a mark of opposition to rampant industrialisation.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Nagendra said that the protest would be expanded and transformed into a State-wide agitation. He demanded the immediate denotification of the acquired lands and the withdrawal of the project.

The farmers challenged statements made by Mr. Shivakumar and Magadi MLA H.C. Balakrishna that 80% of the farmers in the region had consented to the project. The leaders issued an open challenge to the Chief Minister, proposing a showdown at Bengaluru's Freedom Park, where they said they were prepared to release documents to prove that a majority of farmers were unwilling to part with their land.

Agitation expands debate on development, food security and livelihoods

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The farmers' agitation against the Bidadi Township Project, which gathered momentum in Bairamangala on Monday, did not merely question the large-scale land acquisition but also sparked discussions on food security, linear development models, and the social consequences of a paradigm shift in land use. A key issue raised by farmer leader Badagalapura Nagendra was what he called "Bengaluru-centric development", which has been consuming fertile agricultural land on the city's outskirts. He cited the recent Devanahalli protest as an example.

"Imagine, water is being supplied to Bengaluru through the Cauvery sixth and seventh stages, which is an indication that development is coming at a cost," he pointed out. The protest included cultivators from Mandya and Mysuru, who said their participation went beyond mere solidarity.

"Yes, we share the same occupation, and there is an emotional connection, but these developments also spark a fear that our turn may be next. Today, it is Bidadi, tomorrow it could be Mandya, and a few days later Chamarajanagar," said Radha, a farmer from Mandya.

Govindaraju, a farmer leader from Tumakuru, raised concerns about food security. While addressing the gathering, he pointed out that vast stretches of horticultural crops would be destroyed if the project goes on. According to documents accessed by *The Hindu*, more than 400 acres of ragi cultivation will be lost if the project is implemented. In dairy terms, farmers across the 26 villages proposed for acquisition collectively produce 6 lakh litres of milk every day. Coconut, paddy, and fruits such as banana and mango would also be affected.

Speaking about the social impact, Yashavantha T., State general secretary of Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha (KPRS), said that many families are already experiencing internal conflicts over whether or not to part with land and also with their neighbours, erasing years of shared bonds.

Farmer leader Nagaraju M.R. raised a critical question: how will all the families in these villages be rehabilitated, and where are they expected to go?

A source in the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority said that the government has not conducted a social impact study, as it is not mandatory under the Land Acquisition Act. Mr. Nagaraju also pointed out that land prices around the proposed township are already skyrocketing, which would eventually lead to demands for further expansion, turning the entire process into a vicious cycle.

The protesters collectively stressed that the issue is not merely about a change in land ownership but about a complete transformation of their lifestyle and society.

Bidadi township row triggers war of letters, debate challenges between DKS and HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The tussle between Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy over the Bidadi Township Project has reached a new point of confrontation, with the two leaders inviting each other for an open debate at different venues and timings. In a letter, the Chief Minister invited Mr. Kumaraswamy to Vidhana Soudha for a discussion on Friday, stressing that the project was planned by the latter. "With respect to the Bidadi Township Project started by you, I am excited to discuss the matter with you. I am inviting you, along with five of your representatives, for a discussion on June 26 at 11 a.m. in my office," Mr. Shivakumar said in the letter.

Mr. Kumaraswamy wrote back to the Chief Minister saying that he is occupied with pre-planned programmes on June 26, and requested that the meeting be postponed by a day to June 27. However, he expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed venue and said that Mr. Shivakumar should consider hosting the meeting either in Bidadi or Bairamangala. Mr. Kumaraswamy cited that Vidhana Soudha cannot accommodate a large number of people and that holding the meeting in either of the places proposed by him would create an opportunity for the aggrieved farmers and stakeholders to share their views and discuss the matter to take it to a logical conclusion.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kumaraswamy addressed a press conference and recalled the statements made by Congress leaders in 2007, opposing it, when the Bidadi Township was discussed in the Assembly.

No OC needed for electricity connections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's announcement after the Cabinet meeting on Saturday, the State government on Monday issued an official order exempting the requirement of an Occupancy Certificate (OC) for obtaining electricity connections.

People who have constructed ground floor-plus-three-storey residential buildings or residential buildings with parking facility plus four floors on plots measuring up to 2,400 sq. ft (with an additional variation limit of 20%) within the jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Authority, municipal corporations, urban local bodies and gram panchayats in the State have been exempted from obtaining an Occupancy Certificate (OC) for electricity connections.

In addition, the exemption is a one-time measure, allowing applications for permanent electricity connections to be made within 15 days from the date of issuance of the order. It is applicable only to cases where an application for a permanent electricity connection had been submitted, or a building had been constructed after obtaining a temporary electricity connection, by May 31, 2026, as well as cases where a building has been completed without obtaining any electricity connection.

'More than 60,000 contractors will lose jobs on TPCL's entry'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"More than 60,000 contractors, labourers, and their families will suffer if the State government and Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) provide a licence to the Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) for distribution of electricity," said C. Ramesh, State president, Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors Association.

Addressing over 5,000 contractors who had gathered at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday, Mr. Ramesh said, "It will be a huge injustice by the State government to thousands of families if private players enter the ecosystem. They will hire their own men for electricity supply and other works. Moreover, their focus will only be on urban areas rather than rural areas. Rural areas will be left to suffer."

He asked, "Why did the TPCL apply for a licence for parallel power distribution in 15 districts, especially in Bengaluru? Why haven't they applied for the same in Kodagu or Mysuru? Because they know that they will benefit the most in Bengaluru compared to any other district. It is a revenue-generating metro city with many IT companies." Meanwhile, various farmer organisations that were also part of the protest have warned of shutting down State highways if the government goes ahead with their decision. "There is a risk that the free and subsidised electricity facilities being provided to farmers in the State for agricultural pump sets will be reduced or cancelled. This could be a major blow to the agriculture sector. If the cost of electricity increases, the cost of irrigation also increases. As a result, the cost of agricultural production increases, which directly affects the income of farmers," said Muninarayanappa from Chitradurga, one of the farmers present at the protest.

Contractors across also warned that lakhs of families who are getting free electricity facility under the State government's Gruha Jyothi scheme will lose it.

KARNATAKA STATE NATURAL DISASTER MONITORING CENTRE (KSNDMC)
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of Japan-related vessels stranded in the Gulf

37 The number of Japan-related vessels remaining in the Persian Gulf has fallen to 37 from 45, with seven ships having transited the Strait of Hormuz and one transferred to a non-Japanese operator, as per the Japanese Shipowners' Association. Once safe passage has been confirmed, individual shipping firms will decide when to resume transit through the Strait. REUTERS

Number of confirmed Ebola cases in eastern Congo

1,003 Confirmed cases in the Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo have reached 1,003, including 254 deaths, officials said, as tracing those who had been in contact with patients remains a major challenge. A total of 100 people have recovered in the outbreak since it was declared on May 15, Congo's Ministry of Health said Sunday. PTI

Number of aircraft added by Akasa Air to its fleet in 2026

8 Akasa Air, which has been flying for nearly four years, on Monday received its 39th Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. So far in 2026, the airline has added eight aircraft to its fleet. About the 39th plane, Akasa Air said the first leg of the aircraft's delivery flight commenced from Seattle, U.S., to Reykjavik, Iceland, and concluded with the final leg from Cairo, Egypt, to Bengaluru. PTI

Persons injured in Qatar gas plant blast on Sunday

54 A huge blast at a Qatar gas hub that sent flames shooting into the night sky has injured 54 people, authorities said on Monday as they searched for 18 others missing. A "technical incident" caused the explosion late on Sunday in the Gulf Emirate's Ras Laffan industrial zone, the state's Interior Ministry said. The blast took place at a unit supplying gas to local firms. AFP

Number of PMs to hold power in Britain in last 10 years so far

6 Britain will have its seventh Prime Minister in a decade this year after Labour leader Keir Starmer was ousted on Monday by his own party. The party's self-inflicted wound was a trend set by the Conservatives when they were in office. Mr. Starmer announced his resignation on Monday following months of nose-diving poll ratings. AFP

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Reclaiming T.N.'s fiscal autonomy

Tamil Nadu's problem today is not fiscal profligacy or corruption; the pressing problem is its model of inclusive growth itself; the real challenge is getting investment, generating decent jobs, improving wages, while actively renegotiating fiscal space with the Centre

ECONOMIC NOTES

Kalaiyarasan A.

The Government of Tamil Nadu's white paper is a comprehensive analysis of the State's financial status and economic conditions. Detailed like the white paper prepared by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in 2021, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam's (TVK's) 120-page document begins with an important line: 'it is neither an exercise in retrospective blame nor a political statement'. In that spirit, this is a genuine exercise.

It indeed offers an honest account of what went wrong with tax collection: a shrinking base and leakages embedded in both revenue collection and expenditure patterns. While its diagnosis is rigorous, what is not clear, however, is how the government is going to fix the leakages and manoeuvre the welfare that it has promised during its election campaign.

Unsustainable fiscal deficit

The white paper lays bare the structural weaknesses facing Tamil Nadu's economy and outlines a possible course correction which, in that sense, has a lot more continuity than the earlier one submitted by the DMK.

Both literally state that "the current levels of fiscal deficit are unsustainable primarily because a substantial portion of the fiscal deficit is simply to fund the revenue deficit". It means the State is simply borrowing to fund current consumption rather than to create assets. To be sure, for every rupee borrowed about 60 paise goes to current consumption. But one has to be cautious in reading too much into this as substantial expenditure for health and education are under the revenue account.

In an economy, the government needs to raise resources to pay for the provision of public goods and services, build social and physical infrastructures needed for growth and protect the vulnerable from the market forces. In that sense, every policy is a political choice with losers and gainers not just within the present generation but also across generations since public debt shifts the burden of payment to future governments.

The white paper says that the State is deep in debt and its fiscal deficit is beyond the prescribed limit. On average, an individual pays about ₹38,000 in taxes to the State and the Union governments and receives about ₹54,500 worth of subsidies and services. The gap is typically funded by borrowing. The consolidated debt of each individual is then around ₹1.29 lakh, and the cumulative debt is about 28% of the State income, which is the cause for concern today.

Collapse of revenue generation

The serious concern that the report flags is not just debt but of the collapse of the revenue generation itself. While the white paper shows the account of revenue generation of the past five years, the collapse precedes this by at least a decade.

Make no mistake, Tamil Nadu was one of the few States that predominantly sustained itself on its own revenue for its expenditure – about 70% of its expenditure from its own tax in sharp contrast to States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which largely rely on the Centre's transfer.

With the introduction of the GST in 2017, States have lost their autonomy on taxation. Tamil Nadu suffered the most. The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio, which was 7.92% in 2011-12, has been steadily declining, and was down to 5.93% in 2021-22 and further down to 5.45% in 2025-26. The ratio reflects the State's capacity to mobilise its own tax resources relative to the size of its economy. While the white paper clearly shows that the decline is spread across all major tax heads – GST, petroleum VAT, State excise, stamp duty and motor vehicle tax, the GST alone accounts for about 53% total tax revenue. Despite having the second largest economy with the size of ₹35.29 lakh crore of GSDP, its GST collection was ₹72,008 crore lower than that of Karnataka (₹87,256 crore), and Gujarat (₹80,823 crore).

Beside the systemic corruption and inefficiencies in tax collection, the predominance of the service sector also contributed to the decline in GST collection. It appears many units within the sector are beyond the tax net.

Revenue leakages, sectoral debt

Similarly, motor vehicle tax collection has lagged since the number of vehicles registered in the State has not kept pace. Not to mention stamp duties in rent-seeking sectors such as real estate which is known for undervaluation of the property at registration and excessive leakages and corruption.

Even mining revenue is among the most striking examples of stagnation in non-tax income. Besides corruption in valuation, leakage in the assessment of minor mineral extraction also contributed to the decline.

The key sectors that drive the State in this debt trap are the power sector and transport. The power sector alone carries ₹2.47 lakh crore of debt.

The State has historically built progressive power subsidy model - taxing industries and paying for poor and farmers which have become sites of political rent-seeking tied to electoral cycles.

Beside the steady decline in its own tax collection, the State has also been increasingly losing its share in the Union transfer. For instance, Union tax devolution and grants-in-aid together constituted about 34.95% of Total Revenue Receipts in 2021-22 and it declined to 25.5% in 2025-26. Again, this decline precedes a decade. The State's share in total transfer was 5.305% in the 12th Finance Commission period, but it came down to 4.969% in the 13th Finance Commission period and fell down to 4.023% for the 16th Commission.

This declining share is due to the formula adopted by the successive Finance Commissions. The high weightage given to the per capita income distance, combined with population works to the State's disadvantage. In this sense, the State has become a victim of its own success; since per capita income distance favours poorer States by allocating them a larger share of resources, relatively developed States like Tamil Nadu receive less, effectively penalising their higher levels of economic progress. Even the weight assigned to GDP contribution by the 16th Finance Commission did not help as the formula remains unfavourable. Nor have criteria such as area and forest cover worked in the State's favour.

On the other hand, the shareable divisible pool has been shrinking thanks to the arbitrary cess and surcharges imposed by the Centre that takes away the legitimate resources of the States. In that sense, the State is a victim of both vertical and horizontal distribution.

With declining Union transfers and the erosion of its own revenue base, Tamil Nadu's government size – measured by total expenditure as a share of GSDP – has shrunk, weakening the State's fiscal capacity. Together, these factors, limit the State's ability to intervene in the economy.

As the white paper shows, about 64% of every rupee of revenue receipts in 2025-26 is pre-committed on the account of salaries, pensions and interest. With the inflexible non-discretionary obligations of 23%, the pre-committed expenditure goes up to 87% leaving little room for any additional expenditure or any new schemes. Global uncertainty or any exogenous shock could make the economy paralysed.

Debt, demography and scissors effect

This potential debt trap also comes at a time when the State is witnessing faster demographic change. It's aging faster than any other large State in India. Tamil Nadu's median age is 34.25 years – nearly 9.5 years older than Uttar Pradesh and its old-age dependency ratio is projected to increase from 20.6 in 2021 to 32.7 by 2036. This has two implications. The ability to repay the debt is limited, the paper argues, because a shrinking working-age population means a shrinking tax base. It also means the need for higher social expenditure as the share of elderly population goes up. The interaction between a rising debt stock and a shrinking working-age population can create condition for a debt trap which demographers call 'scissors effect' – the widening gap between revenue capacity and expenditure obligations.

The pressing problem

However, Tamil Nadu's problem today is not fiscal profligacy or corruption. The pressing problem is its model of inclusive growth itself. The real challenge thus is getting investment, generating decent jobs, improving wages, while actively renegotiation fiscal space with the Centre. The welfare architecture that the State has built is not enough.

Educated youth who rallied behind the TVK are not seeking more welfare, but decent jobs and wages. Welfare can't be a substitute for jobs and wages. It is time to get the growth fundamentals right, which require investment in education, health, and public infrastructure. Chief Minister Joseph Vijay thus has the enormous responsibility not only to put the inclusive growth model back on track, but also to reclaim fiscal autonomy from the Centre.

Kalaiyarasan A. is Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies

A delicate equation: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Mr. Vijay has the enormous responsibility to not only put the State's inclusive growth model back on track, but also to reclaim fiscal autonomy from the Centre. @PMOINDIA X

THE GIST

- The white paper lays bare the structural weaknesses facing Tamil Nadu's economy and outlines a possible course correction which, in that sense, has a lot more continuity than the earlier one submitted by the DMK.
- The serious concern that the report flags is not just debt but of the collapse of the revenue generation itself. While the white paper shows the account of revenue generation of the past five years, the collapse precedes this by at least a decade.
- Despite having the second largest economy with the size of ₹35.29 lakh crore of GSDP, its GST collection was ₹72,008 crore lower than that of Karnataka and Gujarat.

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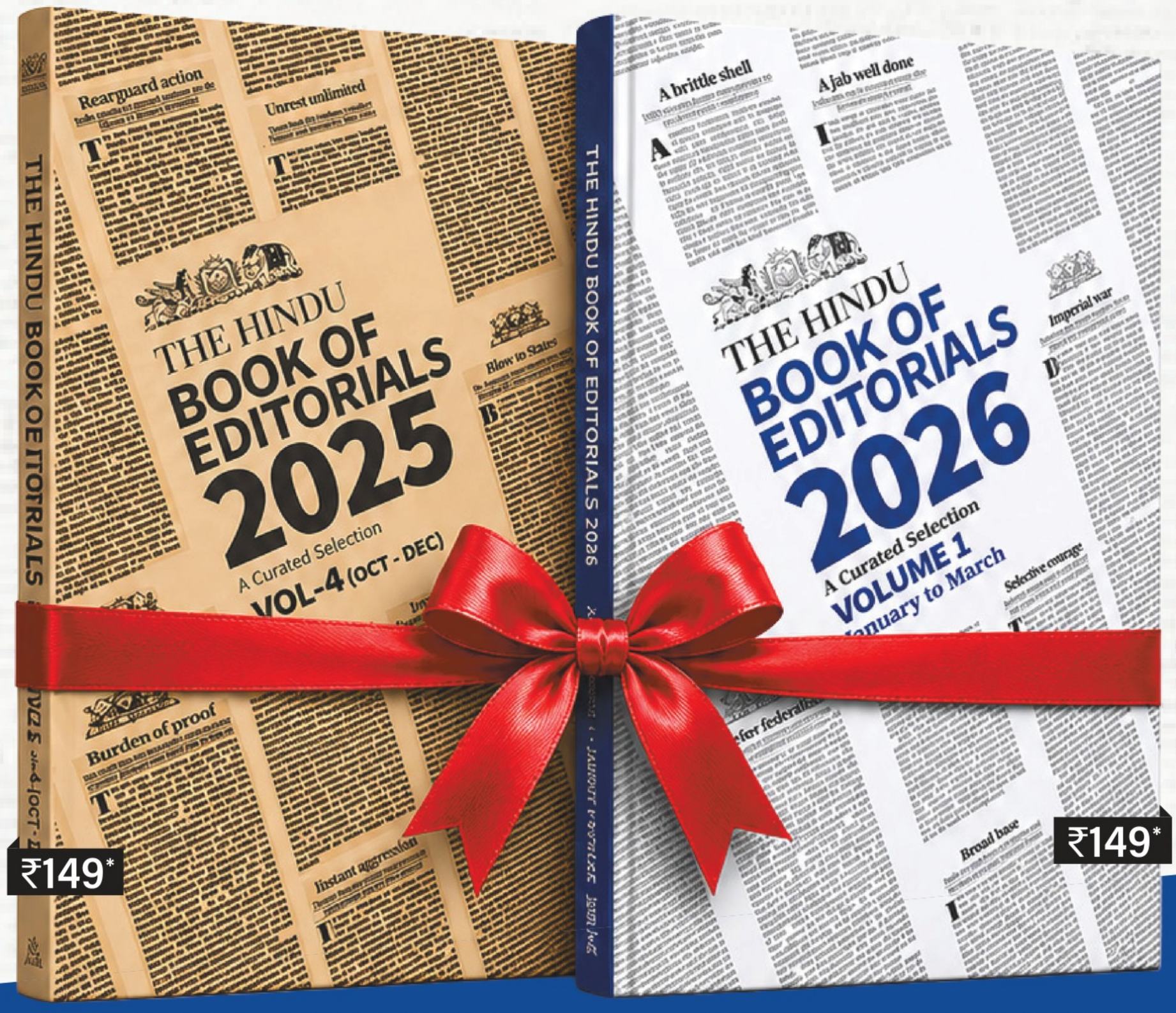

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J BG-BGE

Private varsities accused of seat hike in violation of govt. order

They allegedly tried to do so during the transition from the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet to the one headed by DKS

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

There have been allegations that some private universities and engineering colleges are attempting to increase engineering seats in violation of the Government Order (GO) and beyond the recommendations of Karnataka Engineering Education Reform Authority (KEERA) report. They allegedly tried to do so during the transition from the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet to the one headed by D.K. Shivakumar. Mr. Shivakumar currently holds the Higher Education portfolio. The State government had constituted KEERA, headed by Sadagopan, former director of IIIT-B, to streamline engineering education in Karnataka. The move came in the backdrop of dwindling job opportunities in the engineering sector and the continued expansion of seats largely in Computer Science (CS) and allied courses, leading to an imbalance in engineering education. It was also aimed at curbing the mushrooming of engineering colleges in tier-1 and tier-2 cities.

The authority submitted its report in April 2026. Based on its recommendations, the State government ordered a gradual 17% reduction in seats for CS and allied courses and capped the combined intake for five CS-related combinations at 900 seats.

The delay in announcing the final seat matrix is also likely to delay the seat allotment process for engineering courses this year. FILE PHOTO

"The institutions which already have over 300 seats in CS and related combinations must obtain National Board of Accreditation (NBA) certification within two years of the GO being issued. For new institutions, it has recommended an initial intake of 60 students for any course offered by a private university or engineering college," the order said.

Further, it permits an increase of 60 seats a year, subject to a maximum total intake of 180 seats during the first four years.

However, by then, some private universities and engineering colleges had obtained approval from the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to increase seats in CS and related engineering courses beyond the prescribed cap, and had submitted proposals to the government seeking approval and issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC). The then Higher Education Minister, M.C. Sudhakar, had rejected these proposals. However, after the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet was dissolved, some private universities and engineering colleges allegedly attempted to secure approval for additional engineering seats through certain officials in the Higher Education Department.

According to sources, a few private universities whose requests for seat enhancement in CS and related streams had been rejected allegedly managed to have additional seats included in the intake matrix after the Cabinet was dissolved. Sources further said that a delegation representing private universities and engineering colleges, which already have more than 3,000 seats in CS and related streams, met the Chief Minister and urged him to permit further seat enhancement.

CM contacts Sudhakar

When the file relating to the seat matrix and issuance of NOCs came to the Chief Minister, he contacted Dr. M.C. Sudhakar and realised that some private universities were trying to "manipulate" the government's decision.

Delay in seat matrix

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has already begun mock seat allotment for Common Entrance Test (CET)-2026 counselling, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who currently holds the Higher Education portfolio, is yet to give his consent to the final seat matrix. The delay in announcing the final seat matrix is also likely to delay the seat allotment process for engineering courses this year.

When asked about this, Mr. Shivakumar said he had cleared some files related to the seat matrix and had directed the Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department on Monday to verify and send the pending files to him.

Dr. Sudhakar said, "I have provided all the details to the Chief Minister, including the intention behind the constitution of the Prof. Sadagopan committee on reforms in technical education. I also explained to him the major recommendations of the committee and the GO issued in this regard."

CM instructs officials to extend SCOUT programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday directed officials of the Department of Higher Education to take the necessary steps to extend the three-year SCOUT (Scholars for Outstanding Undergraduate Talent) programme beyond its current term.

Under the existing agreement, the programme is set to conclude next year after the third batch of students travels to a U.K.-based university. The second batch of students from State-run universities is scheduled to leave for the University of Wolverhampton in the United Kingdom on June 27, 2026.

SCOUT is a collaborative initiative of the Higher Education Department and the British Council. Launching the SCOUT 2.0 programme for 29 undergraduate students from University of Mysore, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics, Bengaluru, Davanagere University, Akkamahadevi Women's University and Bidar University, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar advised the students to develop leadership qualities.

He recalled his 22-day visit to Vienna in 1987 as part of the World Youth Exchange Programme and told the students, "You will be our ambassadors, and travel is an extraordinary experience through which you will learn many things."

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar speaks during the launch of SCOUT-2.0 programme for outstanding undergraduate students at the Vidhana Soudha on Monday.

The SCOUT programme was not implemented in 2025 due to the lack of a sponsoring university in the United Kingdom

"We are continuing to exchange knowledge and ideas. I thank the British Council for partnering with the Karnataka government in this programme. Karnataka and Bengaluru are talent hubs, and the whole world is looking at us. India is being viewed through Karnataka.

"You should not lose confidence because you come from rural areas. In our time, we had to study hard to access information. Today, information is available at your fingertips. Times have changed to the extent that students often teach teachers themselves. Everyone is capable, and you are all competing at a global level.

"Your thinking under the SCOUT programme should be visionary. There are great expectations from you," the Chief Minister said.

The SCOUT programme was not implemented in 2025 due to the lack of a sponsoring university in the U.K. However, following a request from the then Higher Education Minister, M.C. Sudhakar, the British Council agreed to continue the programme in 2026.

Although 31 students were initially selected for the programme, two later withdrew owing to passport-related issues. As a result, 29 students will participate in the current batch.

Traffic snarls on NEET day: Congress and BJP indulge in war of words

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A war of words broke out between the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP over students allegedly missing the NEET re-examination at RC College due to traffic snarls around Palace Grounds, where the installation ceremony of B.K. Hariprasad as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president, was held.

While Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya alleged that several students had missed the re-examination, the Congress refuted the claim.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok also blamed the Congress event for the traffic congestion, saying it had caused anxiety among NEET candidates and their parents.

Calling Mr. Surya a "serial misinformation provider MP", Home Minister Priyank Kharge said, "Of the 720 students who were to appear at RC College, 142 remained absent. Three students could not appear for the examination.

Aspirants undergoing security check as they enter the examination hall for the NEET-UG-2026 re-exam, in Bengaluru on Sunday. ANI

One female student travelling from Magadi could not get a bus on time and reached the venue late, while another had brought an admission ticket issued for the examination held on May 3. One student travelling from R.T. Nagar could not write the examination, and the reason for that is being investigated."

Referring to advisories issued by the police in advance, he said, "The BJP MP, who is expressing concern over students missing the examination, remained silent when 22 lakh students were affected by the NEET question paper leak and its misuse."

Acknowledging that there was traffic congestion on Sunday, B.K. Hariprasad expressed regret if two or three students were unable to write the examination due to traffic-related issues. "Our team will meet the students who missed the examination. We are ready to bear the losses," he said. He said all buses carrying participants to the event had arrived by 10.30 a.m. and, to avoid inconvenience, parking had been arranged within the venue premises.

"About 1,400 students remained absent in Mysuru and 286 in Yadgir. Students also did not appear for the examination in Dakshina Kannada and other districts. What events were taking place there? Who will answer to the lakhs of students affected by the NEET question paper leak and the suicides linked to it? The BJP is pointing fingers at the Congress to cover up its own mistakes," he said.

Monsoon colours

Rain ready As monsoon begins, a vendor is seen selling raincoats at Rajajinagar in Bengaluru on Monday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Three killed in separate accidents in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three people were killed in three separate road accidents reported in Bengaluru since late Sunday night.

A private company employee, identified as Gauri Shankar of M.N. Nagar, died after a speeding goods vehicle rammed his motorcycle in HMT Layout, Yeshwanthpur. His bike was dragged for some distance, leaving him critically injured. Passers-by rushed him to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

In another incident, a security guard, Kapendra Maje, originally from Nepal, was killed after being hit by a water tanker near Gandhi Circle around 3 a.m.

In the third incident, Rajendra, 60, died in a self-accident in the limits of the K.R. Puram Traffic Police Station.

Tourism Dept. explores opportunities to boost cruise tourism in Mangaluru

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

With a view to boost the local economy, generate employment and bring Karnataka's cruise tourism to the forefront, the Karnataka Tourism Department is planning to extend the docking hours of the cruise in New Mangalore Port from 12 hours to 48 hours or more. At present, the international cruises that operate out of Bahamas, Maldives, Norway and other countries arrive at the New Mangalore Port for a stop by for only 12 hours.

Thrilok Chandra K.V., secretary, Department of Tourism, Karnataka, said, "The cruise tourism has a lot of opportunities. We are exploring ideas to promote it, so that it will ultimately boost local tourism, economy and generate employment among locals here. We are in talks with various international cruise operators to ensure that they park the cruise for a minimum two days. We are also in talks with the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) for the same."

Cruising along: Cruise tourism is seen as high-value tourism destination as the tourists can spend time visiting various beaches in Mangaluru, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts.

Cruise arrivals reduced

While the department is strategising to boost cruise tourism, the number of cruises post Covid-19 arriving at the Mangalore Port has reduced. According to the NMPA officials, the port handled 24 international cruises in a year before the pandemic but now, they are receiving only six to seven cruises in a year. The official said, "We don't have objections if the cruises are parked for more than 12 hours. The infrastructure is available at the port, and there will be no clashes in terms of their timings of arrival. Each cruise plans their trip two year prior, and we receive their message a few months prior to their arrival at the port."

Mr. Chandra added, "The cruise tourism season is from October to May. This season, we have received quite a good number of tourists - around 2,500 people who arrived in seven different cruises. As we increase the number of hours of parking, the number of cruises arriving will also increase. At present, we have 16 to 17 berths at the port. It is a high-value tourism destination as the tourists can spend time visiting various beaches in Mangaluru, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts. Temple tourism will also get some boost at the same time. On an average, each tourist spends somewhere between $500 to $1000 which is good revenue for the State and the income for local people."

No casino

Unlike Goa or Mumbai, the department has no plans to promote on shore or off short casino for international tourists. "We don't want to promote casino because the local people here are not in favour of it. We also believe that even when there is no casino, tourists will still visit the place for its scenic places, food and beaches," he said.

In this regard, the Karnataka Tourism Society-Mangaluru Chapter, along with the Hospitality Sector led by the Tourism Department, has decided to conduct a detailed study of cruise tourism in other places, including Kochi in Kerala and Mumbai. "The study will be completed before the monsoons end in Karnataka so that we implement our plans this November. We are also planning to include various cruise products, including five star hotel package, temple tourism, and beaches, at places such as Malpe, Panambur, Tannirbhavi, Murudeshwar, water sports like skiing, parasailing, banana boat rides and surfing, Kali river in Dandeli, Gokarna and other places. Of course, these places will be connected with one another for easy movement of tourists which will be figured out in future," he said.

Yajnesh Karkera a resident of Mangaluru, who is into water sports, highlighted the need to develop berths at Malpe and Panambur beaches to park the cruise. "At present, there is no space at the Malpe beach as the harbour is filled with ships meant for fishing and other purposes. The department must develop proper infrastructure at Panambur and Malpe for these cruises and put precautionary measures in place so that no untoward incidents take place," he said.

CACHE

Transparency push: Parliament recently passed the Jan Vishwas law, a move to 'liberate governance from the steel cage'. FILE PHOTO

No one should own the law: why government standards should be public

As part of the implementation of the Jan Vishwas framework, it has been proposed that all edicts of government be centrally published and that any such edict not publicly accessible be treated as null and void — a principle that should extend to public safety standards as well

Carl Malamud

The principle that rules governing public life must be widely accessible is not new to India. The first Indian road safety standard dates back to Emperor Ashoka, who commanded that his edicts of government be broadly disseminated throughout the land. The 7th Pillar Edict, now located in Delhi, had an extensive section on road safety.

Today, this work continues under the auspices of the Indian Roads Congress. While ostensibly a non-profit association, it is actually an arm of the government; it is subject to Right to Information Act; its website is maintained by the Network Information Centre, and its governing council is predominantly composed of government officials. It is a law-making enterprise with the force of the state.

The Indian Roads Congress publishes hundreds of standards, guidelines, and specifications relating to road safety and construction. These documents cover a wide range of technical matters, including route signage for national highways, vehicle design dimensions and weights, and the design of prestressed concrete road bridges.

These standards are widely incorporated into government practice, appearing in subordinate legislation as well as in regulations issued by bodies such as the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The standards are also an integral part of the road construction efforts by the States and are frequently referred to in judicial opinions.

For over a decade, I've been systematically purchasing, scanning, and posting these road edicts on my website and on the Internet Archive, a non-profit public library based in the U.S. Many of these standards have been accessed tens of thousands of times, with even government agencies themselves reproducing and hosting copies. This work is entirely non-commercial: no fees are charged for access, no intellectual property rights are asserted, and the source of every document is clearly identified. The underlying principle is straightforward – edicts of government constitute the raw materials of democracy, and a truly informed citizenry is indispensable to ensuring a government not merely for the people, but by the people.

Recently, a "takedown" notice was issued by the Indian Roads Congress – a demand for the immediate removal of its purportedly proprietary works – accompanied by threats of legal consequences for non-compliance. That demand has not been complied with, and it is necessary to explain why.

My nonprofit makes edicts of government available; it is the essence of our mission. In India, this included posting of over 14,000 Indian Standards issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Like the standards of the Indian Roads Congress, BIS standards are an integral part of public safety. It is impossible to meaningfully advance initiatives such as "Make in India" without ensuring "safe in India." These standards cover critical areas including the National Building Code, safety requirements for motorcycle helmets and drinking water, procedures for entering sewer systems, the operation of agricultural and textile machinery, and construction practices in areas prone to typhoons. Like the Indian Roads Congress, an elaborate law-making process is used before an Indian Standard is issued.

When BIS objected to my actions, myself and two Indian co-petitioners raised a Public Interest Litigation in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. Our suit went on for seven years, and then something interesting happened. During those seven years, we continued to post all the BIS standards for open access, yet during that time more and more people became aware of the standards and the sales of standards by BIS went up! But, here's the thing. Government doesn't make money selling these publications, but they are hard to procure.

It turns out BIS was loosing more and more money as their sales went up. Recognising the inefficiency of this model, a senior official in the Ministry directed that the standards be made freely available on the BIS website. This outcome aligned with the very relief that had been sought; accordingly, the matter was brought before the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, and a request was made to withdraw the petition. The court acceded to this request and disposed of the matter.

Parliament has recently passed the Jan Vishwas law, a move to "liberate governance from the steel cage". A recent post by business leaders Manish Sabharwal (co-founder of TeamLease) and Rahul Matthan (co-founder of Trilegal) called for the removal of "shadow instruments" – edicts that are not readily available to read. In addition to judicial decisions and primary legislation, they identify a wide array of non-statutory instruments that nonetheless carry the force of law, including regulations, circulars, master circulars, departmental and ministerial directions, office memoranda, public notices, general orders, guidance notes, advisories, press releases, schemes, consultation papers, standard operating procedures, policies, notifications, guidelines, government orders, departmental orders, and gazettes.

These instruments constitute what may properly be described as "edicts of government." Courts in other jurisdictions have affirmed that such edicts belong to the people. In the United States, the Supreme Court has held that "no man shall own the law," underscoring the principle that legal materials must remain in the public domain. Similarly, in the European Union, a constitutional bench has ruled that mandatory safety standards form an integral part of the law and that ensuring public access to them is of "overriding public importance."

As part of the implementation of Jan Vishwas, Mr. Sabharwal and Mr. Matthan have suggested that all edicts of government in India be posted on a central website, such as India Code, and that any such edict not publicly accessible should be treated as null and void. This proposal is both sound and necessary, and it ought to extend expressly to public safety standards as well.

It is important, however, to distinguish such edicts from other categories of government publications. Not all documents issued by the state carry normative or binding force; many are informational or cultural in nature, including the numerous publications produced by bodies such as the Publications Division, the National Book Trust, and the Archaeological Survey of India.

Edicts of government have a special protected place in constitutional law, but works of government are any documents issued by the state, and these public works have a special importance. I have also purchased and posted thousands of such documents from the Union and State governments, and as with edicts, have over the years received a number of takedown notices. As with the Roads Congress, I have stated my position and respectfully declined to remove the documents.

In the U.S., the "works of government" clause in the copyright act states that documents issued by the federal government are not eligible for copyright. In England, the government maintains "crown copyright" but has an open government data licene permitting reuse. It would be a simple matter for India to adopt a works of government policy.

Edicts of government are the law, and must be available for democracy to function. Works of government are also vital, public knowledge paid for by the people. Making both edicts and works more readily available will enrich our society and make government ever more relevant to the citizenry. These are small steps we can all take as we walk together up that long twisted path towards a better democracy, towards that shining city on the hill.

Carl Malamud is the president and founder of Public Resource, a U.S.-based NGO and author of 9 books.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The Antarctic Treaty System came into force on June 23, 1961. How well do you know the history of treaties, Antarctica?

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
Which country established the first permanent research station in Antarctica, Orcadas Base, which has operated continuously since 1904?

QUESTION 2
The Antarctic Treaty applies to all territory south of which latitude?

QUESTION 3
Which major scientific event of 1957-58 provided the immediate impetus for negotiating the Antarctic Treaty?

QUESTION 4
Which seven countries had overlapping territorial claims in Antarctica when the Treaty was signed?

QUESTION 5
How many countries currently have Consultative Party status, giving them voting rights in Antarctic Treaty decision-making?

Visual question: Name this active volcano, located on Ross Island, which is the southernmost active volcano on Earth?
UNITED STATES ANTARCTIC PROGRAM - ANTARCTIC PHOTO LIBRARY

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Why did PM Modi, in his speech at the UN in 2014, suggest June 21 be observed as International Day of Yoga? **Ans: It is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere**
2. What was the theme for IDY this year? **Ans: Yoga for Healthy Ageing**
3. Of the five broad classifications of Yoga, two are Bhakti and Karma Yoga. Name the other 3. **Ans: Jnana, Dhyana and Kriya**
4. Which sadhana: i) advocates appropriate food and food habits for healthy living; ii). dissociating one's consciousness from the sense organs that connect with the external objects. **Ans: 'Yuktahara' and 'Pratyahara'**
5. From which animals are these asanas inspired: Catur Svanasana, Sasakasana, Ustrasana? **Ans: Dolphin, hare/rabbit and camel**
6. From where does the shloka 'saṃ gacchadhvaṃ saṃ vadadhvaṃ saṃ vo manāṃsi jānatām |devā bhāgaṃ yathā pūrve saṃjānānā upāsate' that traditionally starts a yoga session come from? **Ans: Rig Veda.**
7. Visual: Name this eminent yoga exponent. **Ans: B.K.S. Iyengar**

Early Birds
Nobody answered all the questions correct.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

Here comes the future chemist. How was the test? How did you do?"

"Pretty bad, actually. The only person who said that he had done a good job was Rahul."

"Rahul? You mean Vijay Kumar's son?"

"The very same, the....the.... 'hair' to ....How do you pronounce 'heir'? I always get confused."

"H..e..i..r is pronounced like the word 'air'."

"But I have heard many people pronounce it like h..a..i..r."

"That's true. But it's pronounced like 'air'. You were saying something about Rahul?"

"He is really smart. You know he works really hard. I don't understand why the heir to millions should work so hard."

"You have to work hard in order to make more money."

"I wish I were heir to...."

"...why don't you get somebody rich to adopt you?"

"Not a bad idea, actually. May be I can get Rahul's father to adopt me! I think I shall inform him your idea."

"Inform him of."

"What?"

"I think I shall inform him of your idea. You don't inform someone something, you inform someone 'of something', or 'about' something."

"I see. How does this sentence sound? The Cabinet Secretary informed the Minister of the mine disaster."

"Sounds good. The students informed the Principal of the drug problem on campus."

"We informed the Bank Manager of our new address."

"Tell me, have you ever been to Rahul's house?"

"....I have been there only once. It's huge. We went to downstairs and the rooms...."

"....to downstairs? You never say 'to downstairs' or 'to upstairs'."

"I know. It was a mistake"

"The words 'downstairs' and ...."

"....upstairs are like the words 'here' and 'there'. One doesn't say, 'Come to here'. Similarly, it is wrong to say, 'Come to downstairs'."

"Very good. Instead, you simply say, 'Come upstairs', or 'Go downstairs'."

"Just like 'Come here', or 'Go there'."

"That's right. Any way, what did you do in Rahul's house?"

"We played a lot of table tennis. He has a lot of computer games. So...."

"....you spent a lot of time playing computer games!"

"Unfortunately, no. Rahul's mother prevented us to play on the computer."

"You don't 'prevent someone to do something'. You usually 'prevent someone from doing something'."

"Prevent from, eh? That's interesting. How about this example? The students were prevented from entering the college by the police."

"I was prevented from taking part in the contest."

"Was it a beauty contest? If that was the case, I can understand why the people prevented you from taking part!"

"Not very funny."

Published in The Hindu on January 16, 2001.

Word of the day

Cavalcade:
meaning a procession of people traveling on horseback

Synonyms: parade, march

Usage: *The royal cavalcade moved slowly down the avenue, waving to the cheering crowds.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/cavalcade

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌkæv.əlˈkeɪd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

HC allows hysterectomy for woman with intellectual, developmental disabilities

A multi-didciplinary medical board constituted by the court unanimously recommended the procedure after determining that the patient lacks the capacity to manage menstrual hygiene

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Medical evaluations revealed the patient suffers from Global Developmental Delay with moderate permanent intellectual disability. GETTY IMAGES

In a rare instance, the High Court of Karnataka has permitted a 23-year-old woman with severe intellectual and development disabilities to undergo total abdominal hysterectomy, ruling that the procedure is in her "best interests" and essential for her health and dignity.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while allowing a petition filed by the woman's parents and primary caregivers to proceed with the surgery at Vanivilas Hospital, Bengaluru.

Earlier, the court constituted a multi-disciplinary medical board comprising specialists in psychology, psychiatry, neurology, obstetrics and gynaecology, radiology, and anaesthesiology after the parents approached the High Court seeking permission to conduct the surgical procedure.

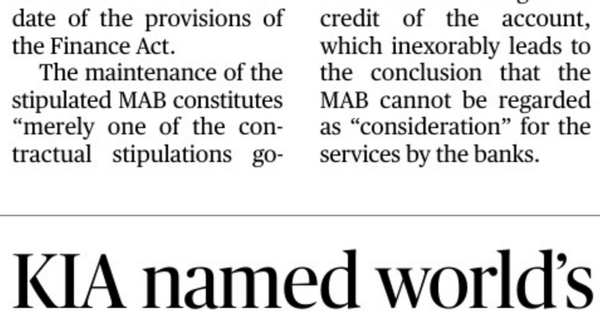
Medical evaluations revealed the patient suffers from Global Developmental Delay with moderate permanent intellectual disability, an IQ of 36, and cerebral palsy with a seizure disorder. Her social age was assessed at approximately five years and four months, with permanent disability quantified at 75%.

The medical board unanimously recommended the procedure after determining that the patient lacks the cognitive capacity to understand or independently manage menstrual hygiene, resulting in recurring infections and medical complications which posed a larger health risk. "The decision of this court is not based upon substituted consent alone, nor upon the existence of disability *per se*. The permission is being granted only after judicial scrutiny, independent medical evaluation by specialists from multiple disciplines, consideration of the patient's inability to provide informed consent, examination of the absence of any contraindication to the proposed procedure, and a determination that the proposed intervention is in the best interests of the patient," Justice Govindaraj said in his order.

Meanwhile, the court directed the medical superintendent of the hospital to make all necessary arrangements for the procedure and ensure the patient receives pre and post-operative counselling, care and rehabilitation services as may be considered necessary by the treating team, including the psychiatrist and other specialists concerned.

Banks get major relief as HC rules MAB in account not liable for service tax

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The dispute was related to the pre-GST period up to June 30, 2017, as tax authorities had argued that customers maintaining an MAB effectively provided a form of non-monetary consideration to the banks. GETTY IMAGES

In a relief to the banking sector, the High Court of Karnataka has ruled that banks are not required to pay service tax merely because customers maintain a Minimum Average Balance (MAB) in their accounts.

The court has said maintaining an MAB is only a condition of operating a bank account and does not amount to payment or "consideration" for any service tax, as the maintenance of an MAB is, in essence, nothing more than the maintenance of a deposit in a bank account.

Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar passed the order while allowing the petitions filed by Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, and Karnataka Bank, and consequently quashing the show cause notices issued to them by the Additional Director-General GST (Central Tax-Intelligence) during 2020-21. The GST authorities had issued similar notices to several other banks and financial institutions.

The dispute was related to the pre-GST period up to June 30, 2017, as tax authorities had argued that customers maintaining an MAB effectively provided a form of non-monetary consideration to the banks. According to the notices, the banks offered a basket of services in return for customers agreeing to maintain the prescribed balance, and the value of that "consideration" could be quantified with reference to penalties imposed when customers failed to maintain the minimum balance.

"The act of customers maintaining an MAB cannot be construed, treated, or described as 'consideration' towards services provided by the banks," the court stated.

The court also said that the notices issued to the banks are *ex facie* contrary to various circulars as well as the scheme and mandate of the provisions of the Finance Act.

The maintenance of the stipulated MAB constitutes "merely one of the contractual stipulations governing the relationship between the banks and their customers" and, in the event of a breach or default thereof, the only consequence that ensues is the levy of a penalty, the court said while pointing out that such penal charges can by no stretch of imagination be construed, characterised, categorised or treated as "consideration" flowing to the banks, particularly when no monetary accrual or pecuniary benefit enure to the banks merely by reason of the maintenance of such an MAB.

Significantly, the court said, a customer remains at liberty to withdraw the entire amount standing to the credit of the account, which inexorably leads to the conclusion that the MAB cannot be regarded as "consideration" for the services by the banks.

Four held in gym trainer's murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

More than two weeks after a gym trainer went missing and was later found dead, the Bannerghatta police have arrested four persons for murder.

The victim is identified as Vijay Kumar, 32, whose decomposed body was recovered from Kaleshwari village near Anekal on June 10.

The arrested have been identified as Srirama, Sumith, Venkateshaiah and Babu, all residents of Anekal.

Vijay went missing on June 8. The police said he had been living separately from his wife and two children for the past two years.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police S. Girish said the accused are in police custody, and investigators are trying to establish the motive behind the murder and ascertain the involvement of any other persons.

Meanwhile, Vijay's family has alleged that an influential builder was behind the murder after Vijay reportedly became friends with the builder's daughter, who was a client at his gym. The family claimed the two had earlier eloped and were later traced by the police.

Investigators, however, said they have largely ruled out Vijay's marital dispute as the motive and are pursuing other leads.

BMTC clarifies no hike in cost of monthly pass, introduces extended area passes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BMTC data show that between June 2 and June 21, over 60,000 ordinary monthly passes were sold FILE PHOTO

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has clarified that there has been no increase in the cost of its ordinary monthly bus pass, even as it introduced new passes for commuters travelling beyond the city's expanded operational limits

In a press release issued on Monday, BMTC stated that the Karnataka government has progressively extended its jurisdiction in response to growing transport needs. Initially limited to about 20 km beyond city limits, the operational area was expanded to 25 km in 2014 and further extended up to 40 km beyond the limits of the Greater Bengaluru Authority in January 2026.

"With this expansion, BMTC services now cover distances of up to 65-70 km from the city centre, connecting key surrounding towns such as Kanakapura, Ramanagara, Channapatna, Magadi, Chickballapur and Malur. The move has significantly improved connectivity for thousands of daily commuters travelling between Bengaluru and nearby districts," the release stated.

To streamline operations, BMTC has categorised its service area into two zones: the "Limited Area" covering up to 40 km, and the "Extended Area" beyond that. While all existing passes remain valid within the Limited Area without any change in fare, the corporation has introduced "Ordinary Extended Area" daily, weekly and monthly passes from June 2 specifically for longer-distance routes.

BMTC data show that between June 2 and June 21, over 60,000 ordinary monthly passes were sold, compared with a relatively small number of extended-area passes.

The corporation emphasised that this clearly indicates continued reliance on the existing monthly pass and reiterated that its fare remains unchanged.

Dismissing reports of a fare hike as "factually incorrect", BMTC stated that the new extended passes are intended solely for the convenience of passengers travelling longer distances.

KSPCA member seeks 10% reservation for serving RSIs in Civil PSI recruitment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority member, Mohan Kumar Danappa, has urged the State government to provide a 10% reservation for serving Reserve Sub-Inspectors (RSIs) in the recruitment of Civil Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs).

In a letter addressed to the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, on Monday, Mr. Danappa said personnel serving in units such as the Karnataka State Reserve Police, City Armed Reserve, District Armed Reserve, and Karnataka State Industrial Security Force possess extensive field experience and specialised training that could be effectively utilised in civil policing.

He noted that RSIs undergo training in riot control, internal security, anti-Naxal operations, bomb detection and disposal, commando operations, and other specialised policing duties. Despite their expertise and years of service, they currently do not have a dedicated quota in Civil PSI recruitment. As they are already trained, recruiting them would also be cost-effective.

Mr. Danappa pointed out that a similar reservation is already available for serving Reserve Police Constables in recruitment to Civil Police Constable posts.

Extending a similar benefit to serving RSIs in Civil PSI recruitment would boost morale, provide career advancement opportunities, and help retain experienced personnel within the police force, he said.

According to the representation, reservation would reduce training costs, make better use of skilled manpower, and enhance the overall efficiency of the Police Department.

He urged the government to amend the relevant recruitment rules.

KIA named world's third most 'family-friendly' airport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A view of the Kempegowda International Airport.

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been ranked as one of the world's most family friendly airports for 2026.

According to a study conducted by Attraction-Tickets.com, one of the UK's leading travel experience providers, KIA has been ranked among the world's best airports for transiting with children and is one of only two Indian airports to feature on the global list. While KIA has been ranked third in the list of top 10 airports for families, Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has been ranked fourth. Helsinki-Vantaa Airport topped the list, followed by Singapore's Changi Airport and Bahrain International Airport, with KIA ranking third. KIA scored 18.6 points out of a maximum 20. Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA, said the ranking assessed airports on factors such as family-friendly facilities, ease of navigation, entertainment options and overall passenger experience.

It said KIA was recognised for its focus on creating a more engaging travel environment through initiatives such as India's first sensory room for neurodivergent passengers, an inclusive art programme, and a range of family-friendly amenities.

Key parameters

According to Attraction-Tickets.com, its experts began with a seed list of more than 140 popular airports to compile the Happiest Airports Ranking. The team collected data across nine key parameters: Google review ratings, dedicated children's play areas, family security lanes, baby-changing facilities, stroller/pram hire, sleep pods and rest zones, quality Wi-Fi for streaming, airport size and support for neurodivergent families.

"Each location was then given a total score out of 20, based on performance across all nine data points. These scores formed the basis of the final ranking, revealing which destinations are most likely to ease pre-holiday stress while also being well-reviewed and top-of-mind for those planning an overseas holiday. This data was collated and analysed in May 2026," the company said.

Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyothi scheme helps save nearly 16,000 patients

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Early diagnosis and timely intervention at taluk hospitals have helped save the lives of nearly 16,000 patients with serious cardiac complications under the Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyoti scheme of the Government of Karnataka.

According to the Health Department, 11,78,504 people have been screened under the programme since its launch in March 2023. During this period, doctors identified 18,804 cases of ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI), a severe type of heart attack that requires urgent medical attention. Of these, 15,908 patients – accounting for 84.6% of the cases – were successfully treated.

The State government named Karnataka's STEMI management project at the taluk level after actor Puneeth Rajkumar in 2023. The initiative was launched to minimise delays in diagnosing and treating heart attack patients in rural areas, and is being implemented through a hub-and-spoke model.

Officials said Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled technology has played a key role in facilitating rapid diagnosis.

Patients are categorised based on the severity of their condition, enabling doctors to quickly identify critical cases and initiate treatment.

As part of the programme, 1,560 patients have received the costly Tenecteplase injection free of charge since May 2024.

As part of the programme, 1,560 patients have received the costly Tenecteplase injection free of charge since May 2024. GETTY IMAGES

Over 12 lakh ECGs

Raghunandan, State Deputy Director (Non-Communicable Diseases), said that 12,26,816 electrocardiograms (ECGs) had been conducted since the scheme's inception. "Of these, 18,804 STEMI cases were identified. A total of 15,908 patients survived after they received treatment through thrombolysis, angioplasty, stenting, and Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) procedures," he said.

Hub-and-spoke model

At present, 86 district and taluk hospitals function as "spoke" centres, while 10 "hubs" have been established across 16 super-speciality hospitals, including the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. The State government had announced the expansion of the scheme to all taluk hospitals in September 2025, and work towards this is currently under way, Dr. Raghunandan said.

Jayadeva institute Director B. Dinesh said individuals experiencing chest pain could visit any spoke centre and undergo an ECG immediately. "Using AI-assisted technology, doctors can determine within four to five minutes whether a patient is in a critical condition," he said.

With cardiovascular diseases emerging as a major public health challenge and heart attack cases steadily rising across Karnataka, officials said the Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyothi scheme has become a crucial intervention in reducing cardiac mortality, and ensuring timely access to specialised treatment.

Dr. Dinesh said that the State government has approved the establishment of Jayadeva satellite centres at the existing multi-speciality referral centre run by the GBA at Govindarajanagar, and at Charaka Super-speciality Hospital affiliated with the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute in Shivajinagar.

Cross-voting: State BJP leaders reach Delhi to meet Nitin Nabin today

Fact-finding committee will submit interim report on cross-voting before the meeting, sources say

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The embarrassing episode of cross-voting by some BJP MLAs in the recently-held elections to the Legislative Council is now at the doorstep of the high command, with BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok heading to Delhi to attend a meeting convened in this regard by party national president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday.

Assuming an aggressive posture ahead of the meeting, Mr. Ashok said, "We are going to hunt down the thieves." The fact-finding committee led by C.T. Ravi, party MLC, is set to submit an interim report on the cross-voting episode before the meeting, sources said.

The BJP-JD(S) alliance suffered a setback in the elections to the Legislative Council as 11 MLAs from the combine indulged in cross-voting to support the ruling Congress.

The BJP is of the view that four of its MLAs violated the party whip. Asked if the party had identified the MLAs who cross-voted, Mr. Ashok said, "We have suspicion about a few, but we need confirmation." He indicated that details in this regard may emerge in the fact-finding report.

Leader of Opposition in State Legislative Assembly R. Ashok and BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra.

> We are going to hunt down the thieves ... we have suspicion about a few, but need confirmation
>
> **R. ASHOK**
> Leader of Opposition in State Legislative Assembly

Brushing aside speculations that some MLAs from the Opposition did not have any other option but to cross-vote in favour of the ruling Congress candidates to get development funds for their constituencies, Mr. Ashok remarked: "It is for their own personal development."

He claimed that the BJP State leaders had not been "summoned" by the party Central leadership but had sought an appointment. Launching a counter-attack on the Congress, which had termed the BJP's operation *Kamala* as "immoral", he wondered if cross-voting was part of operation *hastha* (hand) by the Congress. "The Congress will have to face the repercussion. The time is not far when the Congress MLAs will come to the BJP," he said.

Meanwhile, D.V. Sadananda Gowda, former Chief Minister, told a private TV channel that the episode would not have taken place if the Central leadership had analysed the defeat in the recent Assembly bypolls and taken suitable action. He claimed he had passed on information regarding efforts by a group to indulge in cross-voting to the party State leaders ahead of polling.

Cross-voting intensifies mistrust in faction-ridden BJP State unit

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Cross-voting by the BJP MLAs during the recent Legislative Council elections has intensified suspicion and mistrust in the party State unit, which is already gripped by groupism.

While the party high command is set to discuss the issue in Delhi on Tuesday, senior leaders are concerned that the air of intensified mistrust at a time when the party has to gear up for the next Assembly elections might affect the morale of its cadre.

Opposition within

It is no secret that a group of senior party leaders, including MLAs, have been opposing the leadership of State president B.Y. Vijayendra on various grounds, including that it deviates from the party's stand against dynastic politics as he is the son of the party's veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa.

Apart from publicly criticising him, some leaders had also gone to Delhi to meet Central leaders to put forth their views. However, this group had been maintaining a low profile ever since the Central leadership cracked the whip by expelling rebel MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal for six years.

Now, Mr. Vijayendra's supporters suspect that his political detractors may have a role in the cross-voting to show him in poor light and to undermine his leadership. Mr. Vijayendra said that the incident had made the cadre look at all 63 MLAs of the party suspiciously.

On their part, those opposing him have already taken to social media, squarely blaming him for the turn of events.

Several senior leaders in the party are concerned over these developments as they feel that they could come in the way of galvanising the cadre at a crucial time when it is expected to tread an aggressive path to take on new Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar who is known for his "no-holds-barred" functioning style.

A file photo of BJP leaders Ramesh Jarkiholi, Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, and G.M. Siddeshwar.

It is no secret that a group of senior party leaders have been opposing the leadership of BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra

Why extra candidate?

Pointing out that the party has less than two years to face the crucial 2028 Assembly elections, some senior leaders said that the BJP-JD(S) coalition leaders could have avoided this embarrassment by not fielding the extra candidate. They express concern that the cross-voting had publicly proved that the party could not break through the political strategies of Mr. Shivakumar. In this context, they feel that the BJP high command has a greater role to play now.

Some of the BJP leaders also feel that it is a cautionary bell that the coalition partners need to improve their coordination ahead of 2028.

Recalling an earlier episode when the party had been haunted by cross-voting when its candidate Taradevi Siddarth lost the Rajya Sabha polls, a senior leader recalled that it took time for the party to recover.

Dharmasthala event may be cancelled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP is likely to cancel the proposed legislature party meeting to be held at Dharmasthala to "seek the truth" on cross-voting following serious opposition by several party leaders.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra announced on Sunday that he was keen to hold a legislature party meeting in Dharmasthala.

"Several leaders including former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda and MLAs S. Suresh Kumar and Arvind Bellad called me to oppose the idea of using a pilgrimage centre for political purpose. Following this, I have decide to talk to Mr. Vijayendra about it," Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok told presspersons in Bengaluru.

Congress will form special committee to frame objections against SIR: Hariprasad

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

The Congress-led Karnataka government will constitute a special committee headed by former chairman of the Legislative Council V.R. Sudarshan to frame the State's conditions and objections against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad said during an interaction with *The Hindu*.

He said that from Tuesday, divisional-level meetings will be held across the State to discuss the SIR exercise, decide the party's strategy, and prepare formal representations to the Election Commission of India (ECI). "The Congress has already taken a decision to oppose the SIR, a position also reiterated at recent meetings of the Congress Working Committee (CWC)," Mr. Hariprasad said.

KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday. ANI

He said the State will also intervene against the ECI's insistence on Permanent Residential Certificates (PRC) and its refusal to accept residential certificates, as directed by the Karnataka government.

Recently, the Karnataka government had directed Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) to issue residential certificates as supporting documents for those who require them. However, Election Commission guidelines accept only PRCs.

> Karnataka will not go the West Bengal way. There is a 35 lakh gap between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP, with 27 lakh names under adjudication
>
> **B.K. HARIPRASAD**
> KPCC president

"This is just to create confusion. They say 11 documents can be used, any one of them can be produced, but the intention is very clear – to de-franchise the poor people of this country, especially women and the weaker sections of society. We have seen it in Bihar and West Bengal," he alleged.

The Congress will insist that residential certificates issued at the local level, including those issued by PDOs in rural areas, must be accepted, he said. "The role of the Election Commission is not to tighten documentation norms. Its responsibility is to conduct elections, not create barriers to voter inclusion," he said.

Going door-to-door

Acknowledging that large-scale deletions from electoral rolls during the SIR process have occurred because people were unable to produce stipulated documents, Mr. Hariprasad said Congress cadres have been instructed at the booth level to go door-to-door, identify voter issues, and resolve them.

"Karnataka will not go the West Bengal way. There is a 35 lakh gap between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP, with 27 lakh names under adjudication. That means only an 8 lakh difference. For those 27 lakh people, they are saying they can vote in the next five years. Nobody knows who will be left out," he said.

When asked about concerns that the Supreme Court is endorsing the ECI's norms, hence limiting the scope for the State to intervene, Mr. Hariprasad said, "The Supreme Court is not a holy cow. We will go by the Constitution and its values. We will stick to that."

Referring to electoral roll revisions in West Bengal, he said irregularities had taken place. "Two MLAs elected there were Muslims; their names were under adjudication. After the list was announced, they went to the High Court and got cleared. Only then could they contest. These injustices are happening.... But we will have to fight in the people's court."

Buoyed by beer, Excise revenue grows by 14.84% in a month following State government's reforms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Buoyed by a whopping growth in sales of beer after prices of some of the low alcohol-content beer came down – following Excise reforms introduced by the State government last month – revenue has grown by 14.84% in the one-month window. The performance of beer sales in May-June this year contrasts the performance in 2025-26, when sales had declined by 11.3% compared to 2024-25.

While the sale of beer between May 11 (when the new prices came into force) and June 11 grew by 54.67%, the sale of Indian Made Liquor (IML) in the same period came down marginally by 0.35%, compared to the corresponding period in 2025.

In terms of volume, 54.6 lakh cases of beer were sold from May 11-June 11, 2026, against 35.3 lakh cases sold in the same window last year. However, the sale of IML has come down to 54.55 lakh cases in 2026 from 54.74 lakh cases in 2025 in the same period.

Brewing boom

- Beer cases sold from May 11-June 11, 2026: **54.6 lakh**
- Beer cases sold in corresponding period in 2025: **35.3 lakh**
- IML* cases sold from May 11-June 11, 2026: **54.55 lakh**
- IML cases sold in corresponding period in 2025: **54.74 lakh**

*IML: Indian Made Liquor

The sale of beer increased the total Excise collection between May 11 and June 11, 2026, to ₹3,745.14 crore.

The sale of beer increased the total Excise collection in the period to ₹3,745.14 crore from ₹3,261.24 crore in the corresponding period last year.

"The huge rise in beer sales was due to the combined factor of drop in beer prices and the heat conditions that prevailed in the State during that period. We are expecting the sales of beer to reduce in the coming months if cold conditions prevail due to monsoon rains. A clear picture will emerge in the next few months," Excise sources said, adding that the cold conditions had set in early in May last year owing to early rains. "This resulted in beer sales coming down. Later, floods added to the drop in beer sales," they added.

In fact, the total sales of beer had slumped to 399.29 lakh cases in 2025-26, a 11.3% decline from 450.36 lakh cases sold in 2024-25.

The prices of low alcohol-content beer and IML have come down after the State government introduced Excise reforms, bringing pricing connected to "alcohol in beverage" instead of taxing on slabs. The high volume-high alcohol content liquor in the State that falls within the first four slabs of Excise is consumed by the masses and drives Excise collection.

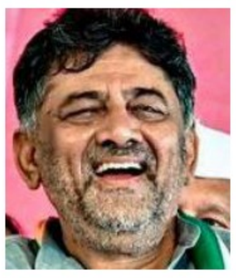
Sources also said that a new trend is being observed in the State following the price revision. "This is only an early trend which could see changes in the coming months."

CM to hold meetings at Krishna instead of private residence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has announced that henceforth, he will meet the general public and hold all meetings, including those with legislators, only at his home office 'Krishna'.

In a statement to the media, the Chief Minister said that he will no longer meet anyone at his private residence in Sadashivanagar owing to some unavoidable reasons.


D.K. Shivakumar

'Respect appeal'

Mr. Shivakumar has further requested the general public, party leaders and party workers to respect his appeal and not take it otherwise.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRIGENDUM

HE-MC-MISC-0037-2025/33952/, Dt.:22.06.26

In continuation to Tender Call Notice No. **HE-MC-MISC-0037-2025/28348 dated 30.05.2026** for "AI-enabled Exam Security Surveillance and Ancillary Support Services during conduct of multiple examinations", it is hereby informed that :

- **Last date for submission of bids : 05.07.2026 up to 5:00 PM**
- **Opening of Technical Bids : 06.07.2026 at 11:30 AM**

Clarification:

For Section 9 (Sl. No. 5) and Section 10 (Sl. No. 5, 6 & 7), the candidate-count requirement shall be evaluated based on the number of candidates handled by the bidder in a single shift/session of an examination project.

Sd/-
Director, Higher Education,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

11001/146/2627
OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0018

'New Mekedatu tribunal won't affect T.N.'s interests'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources N. Anand on Monday told the Tamil Nadu Assembly that the demand for constituting a new tribunal on the Mekedatu project would not adversely affect the interests of the State.

"We cannot remain idle when the Centre and the Karnataka government, citing the new guidelines, seek to construct a dam at Mekedatu. The tribunal route is the best approach. It can establish Tamil Nadu's rights over the surplus water and prevent unilateral decisions by the Union government," he said.

Mr. Anand said it was incorrect to claim the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) had rejected Karnataka's Detailed Project Report.

"On the contrary, the CWMA has forwarded the DPR to the Central Water Commission without offering any comments. Therefore, the threat posed by the proposed dam has not ended," he said.

According to the Minister, the Supreme Court's 2018 judgment had not conclusively determined the issue of surplus water, which Karnataka had subsequently filed another original petition.

"It is our contention before the Supreme Court that any new dispute arising under the Cauvery water-sharing arrangement can be resolved only through a tribunal," Mr. Anand added.

Kerala MPs protest removal of dam panel representative

Congress's Jebi Mather, CPI(M)'s John Brittas write to Centre, flag lack of consultation with State before removing T.K. Sivarajan from the committee formed to assess safety of Mullaperiyar dam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jebi Mather submits a petition to BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy protesting T.K. Sivarajan's removal.

Kerala MPs from both the Congress and the Left have reached out to the Union government, raising concerns over its "unilateral decision" to remove Kerala's representative T.K. Sivarajan from the five-member Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation Committee (CDSEC) formed to assess the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam, without consulting the State government.

Congress Rajya Sabha member Jebi Mather, who is also a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, met panel chairperson Rajeev Pratap Rudy to submit her petition, while the CPI(M)'s Upper House leader John Brittas wrote to Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, advocating the reinstatement of Mr. Sivarajan.

Ms. Mather, in her letter to Mr. Rudy, said Mr. Sivarajan's removal raised apprehensions regarding the "fairness, transparency and inclusiveness" of the ongoing dam safety assessment. "Recent assessments undertaken by the Dam Safety Review Panel across the country have highlighted the growing threat posed by ageing and vulnerable dams across the country and the urgent need for comprehensive safety evaluation and rehabilitation measures. These findings have renewed public concern regarding the safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam, a 129-year-old masonry structure situated in a seismically sensitive region," Ms. Mather wrote. Any adverse incident involving the dam, she cautioned, could affect 35 lakh people downstream.

Senior officer apologises in Kerala HC in contempt plea

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A senior bureaucrat submitted an unconditional apology on Monday before the Kerala High Court in a contempt of court petition filed in connection with alleged irregularities in the import of raw cashew by Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation (KSCDC).

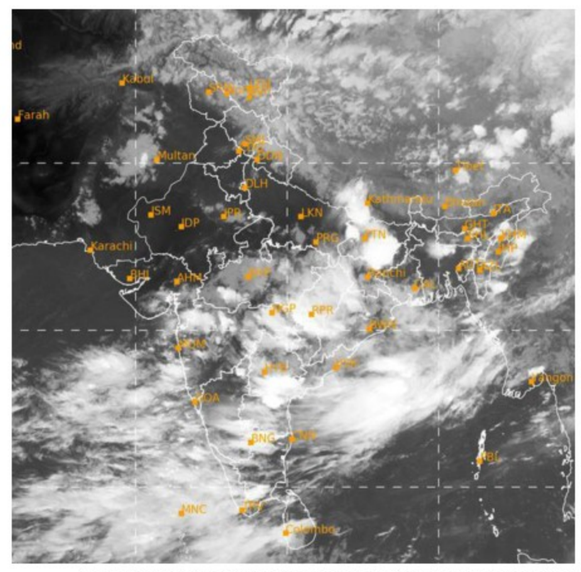
The contempt plea was filed by Kadakampally Manoj after the State government had refused sanction thrice for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to prosecute the accused, Principal Secretary of Industries A.P.M. Mohammed Hanish, in the alleged misappropriation of imported raw cashew worth ₹600 crore between 2006 and 2015.

A Single Bench of Justice A. Badharudeen had earlier warned Mr. Hanish that he would have to appear in person or else "coercive steps" would be initiated to secure his presence.

In an affidavit filed before the Single Bench, Mr. Hanish tendered his unconditional apology for "any inconvenience caused" to the court. He stated that the full charge of the Cashew Development Department had been handed over to K. Biju, Secretary of the Forest and Wildlife Department. Therefore, he did not have the power to pass any orders regarding the sanction for CBI prosecution in the alleged misappropriation. The matter will be heard further on July 2.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	102	32.4	23.5	Kurnool	—	39.0	27.9
Ahmedabad	—	40.5	29.4	Lucknow	—	41.0	30.0
Aizawl	2	32.2	21.0	Madurai	0.6	37.0	24.6
Bengaluru	—	29.9	21.9	Mangaluru	7	29.4	23.5
Bhopal	—	35.2	25.7	Mumbai	19	34.6	25.4
Bhubaneswar	1.5	31.7	26.1	Mysuru	10	31.2	20.4
Chandigarh	2.4	36.0	25.4	New Delhi	—	38.4	27.3
Chennai	23	36.2	24.5	Patna	11.4	36.9	26.6
Coimbatore	—	31.6	23.0	Port Blair	2	30.9	24.9
Dehradun	—	34.2	25.3	Prayagraj	—	43.3	30.8
Gangtok	31	19.9	17.4	Puducherry	—	36.4	26.4
Goa	13	30.5	25.8	Pune	0.6	34.1	25.0
Guwahati	12	32.4	24.9	Raipur	—	39.4	30.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	23.0	Ranchi	3	28.4	23.0
Hyderabad	—	36.3	27.0	Shillong	6	26.7	17.0
Imphal	3.4	31.2	24.1	Shimla	—	29.4	18.4
Jaipur	—	37.3	27.2	Srinagar	—	26.6	15.4
Kochi	60	29.0	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	12	30.1	24.8
Kohima	—	24.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	36.1	26.0
Kolkata	51	29.6	25.4	Vijayawada	0.4	38.4	27.8
Kozhikode	32	31.9	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.7	28.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.99	.—	.49	.46	.65	
Bengaluru	.10	.33	.60	.—	.104	
Chennai	.7	.10	.64	.28	.80	
Delhi	.14	.54	.54	.104	.307	
Hyderabad	.14	.17	.38	.45	.77	
Kolkata	.12	.24	.26	.60	.78	
Lucknow	.8	.12	.44	.63	.112	
Mumbai	.2	.24	.24	.64	.51	
Pune	.—	.21	106	.21	.28	
Visakhapatnam	.16	.57	.10	.64	.118	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 297 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

HC admits Kerala's appeal in actor's case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday admitted the State government's appeal to enhance the punishment awarded to the convicted and challenging the acquittal of the other accused in the actor assault case of 2017.

The Ernakulam Sessions Court had convicted six of the accused and awarded each one 20 years' imprisonment on two counts of gang rape, 10 years' imprisonment for assault and use of criminal force on a woman with the intent to disrobe her, and one year's simple imprisonment for wrongful confinement. It was found that the accused had also committed the offence of destruction of evidence and taking and distributing obscene images.

Four of the six convicted had applied for suspension of their sentences, admitted earlier this month by the High Court.

Transport officer dies as coal lorry hits him

P. Laxma Reddy
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

District Transport Officer (DTO) M. Venkanna was killed after a coal-laden tipper lorry hit him near the Regional Transport Office (RTO) at Chelpur on the Parkal-Bhupalpally highway in Telangana on Monday.

According to Superintendent of Police Sirisetti Sankeerth, the tipper lorry rammed into Mr. Venkanna as he had stepped out of his official vehicle and was regulating traffic to facilitate the entry of a seized harvester into the RTO premises. The coal-laden lorry was proceeding towards the TGGENCO plant when it hit the officer. Preliminary investigation indicated that the vehicle was being driven at high speed and in a rash manner.

Following the incident, Mr. Venkanna sustained grievous injuries and died on the spot. The driver was taken into custody.

INBRIEF

Two more actors quit Kerala film body; crisis deepens

The crisis in the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) worsened after actors Mallika Sukumaran and Lakshmipriya resigned from its primary membership on Monday. Ms. Sukumaran said in a social media post that she stood with Shweta Menon, the association's first woman president, who resigned on Sunday after a stormy general body meeting held in Kochi. The executive committee led by Ms. Menon decided to step down after a section of the association moved a no-confidence motion against it at the general body meeting.

ED questions CMRL's chief financial officer in pay-off case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned CMRL Chief Financial Officer K.S. Suresh Kumar in the alleged pay-off case involving Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd. (CMRL) and former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter T. Veena. The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs had allegedly uncovered fictitious cash expenses of ₹182 crore generated by the CMRL over a span of 15 years, to bribe various persons. Ms. Veena has been summoned for another round of questioning on June 29.

Allu Arjun fails to appear before court in stampede case

Actor Allu Arjun did not appear before the Nampally Criminal Court on Monday during proceedings in the Sandhya Theatre stampede case, and two representatives of the theatre management were also absent from the hearing. Allu Arjun, who has been named as Accused No. 11, neither attended the proceedings in person nor joined through video conference. The court directed the defence to submit a memo with the reasons for the actor's absence. The court adjourned the matter to July 6 for next hearing.

Plan to cut tax on low-alcohol drinks faces opposition from church bodies

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

The Kerala government's proposal to lower the tax on low-alcohol beverages appears to be emerging as an early political flashpoint, drawing opposition not only from sections within and outside the ruling coalition and the Opposition but also from influential Christian church bodies.

The State Committee of the Temperance Commission under the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council on Monday opposed the proposal and described it as an 'anti-Gen Z' move. The commission also warned that it would resist the government's decision if the objective behind the move was to boost revenue collection by encouraging the consumption of stronger and higher taxed liquor.

"Liquor with low-alcohol content is not intended to serve existing drinkers; rather, it is aimed at creating new consumers of alcohol. While the government announces benefits and welfare measures for gender equality and women's empowerment, it is not appropriate to exploit the same section of society through other means. The government should withdraw from such covert strategies aimed at generating revenue by pushing such vulnerable sections into alcohol dependence and exploiting their weaknesses," the commission said in a statement.

The commission said the policy, which has been opposed by various community leaders and organisational platforms across the State, should be rejected at the outset. Such a move, it added, would further strengthen the public support gained by the V.D. Satheesan government during its first 30 days in office.

Trap

The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church has also come out strongly against the proposal, terming it a dilution of efforts to combat addiction. "There is no need to classify intoxicants as mild or strong. All forms of intoxication are harmful. Many children are drawn into the trap of dangerous narcotics after being exposed to seemingly harmless, low-intensity addictive substances. The argument that making low-alcohol beverages easily available will prevent the younger generation from turning to more dangerous drugs is illogical," said Yuhanon Mar Dioscoros Metropolitan, head of the media wing of the Orthodox Church.

He also expressed hope that the positions taken by senior leaders such as V.M. Sudheeran on the issue would serve as a corrective force against the proposed policy.

Pinarayi says polluted water sprayed at rally

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The police using water cannon on protesters in the Kerala capital. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, Pinarayi Vijayan, on Monday alleged that the police sprayed contaminated water on protesters during their Assembly march against the Congress government's decision to proceed with the PM Shri agreement.

The march was taken out by the All India Students' Federation and the All India Youth Federation earlier in the day.

Mr. Vijayan brought a bottle of the "contaminated" water into the House during the discussion on the revised Budget for 2026-27. Showing the water collected from the protest site, he said the water could even spread amoebic encephalitis.

In response, the Home Minister said that this was not the first time water cannons had been used on protesters in the State. He clarified that the water was collected from the Kerala Water Authority. He also assured the House that the sample would be sent to a laboratory for testing.

Spiritual guru withdraws proposed meditation retreat project

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Spiritual leader Sri M, also known as Mumtaz Ali.

Opposition by residents and various organisations in Karnataka's Kodagu district have led spiritual guru and Padma Bhushan awardee Sri M to withdraw his proposed meditation retreat project near the ecologically sensitive Malma Hills in Madikeri taluk.

For the past several days, villagers have been opposing any form of alleged commercial activity on Malma Hills near Nelaji village. The hill is located close to the renowned Igguthappa temple, an important religious site for residents of the district, particularly the Kodava community.

According to local residents, Sri M, who was earlier known as Mumtaz Ali, had purchased land on the hill, where cardamom and other crops were being cultivated. Villagers alleged that following the purchase, trees were cut, roads were constructed and ponds were created on the property. While acknowledging that the land is privately owned, residents argued that any commercialisation of the ecologically sensitive hill could adversely affect the area's fragile environment, cultural heritage, and religious significance.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Harish Kushalappa, former president of the Ballamavati Gram Panchayat and a resident of the area, said that two landowners had sold the property to Sri M a few months ago. "The property is somewhat forest-like in nature, though cardamom was earlier cultivated there. We do not have any objection if the person who purchased the land undertakes agriculture or plantation activities. However, we oppose the use of such an ecologically sensitive area for commercial purposes," he said.

Mr. Kushalappa further stated that despite Sri M issuing a statement promising residents that the status quo would be maintained, villagers would continue approaching authorities seeking protection for the hill.

"We will submit complaints to the Deputy Commissioner, the Revenue, the Tourism, and the Mines and Geology departments, as well as the local MP and the MLA, requesting that no permissions be granted for any commercial activities that could damage the hill and its natural environment," he said.

Amid growing concerns, residents of Ballamavati village convened a special gram sabha at the Ballamavati Gram Panchayat Hall on June 20. During the meeting, villagers unanimously passed a series of resolutions opposing any development or commercialisation activities in and around Malma Hill and its foothills

Following the opposition from local residents, Sri M issued a statement clarifying that the land had been purchased not for commercial purposes but for a self-retreat centre focused on meditation, the study of Shastras, Sanskrit chanting and advanced yoga practice.

According to the statement, the proposed facilities were to include a goshala, meditation hall and ponds. Sri M said that he had no intention of cutting trees or damaging the mountain forest and that the project was intended to preserve the landscape while respecting Malma hill and Lord Igguthappa, whom he described as spiritually significant to him. However, citing the sentiments of villagers and the Kodava community, Sri M announced that he was withdrawing all proposed construction plans. "Since the land in question is considered a sacred place by Kodavas and the development will affect Kodava religious feelings, I have decided not to make any construction on the said properties," he stated.

Sri M further said that the ponds on the property were necessary for groundwater conservation and were not intended for commercial use.

Deadly fumes

Strict enforcement of safety norms is absent in many industrial units

Tamil Nadu has witnessed its deadliest industrial ammonia gas leak tragedy, which has so far claimed the lives of eight migrant women workers at a private seafood processing unit in Tiruvallur district. Some of the 68 hospitalised workers are in intensive care on oxygen support. Since the 1980s, the State has battled ammonia leaks in factories every few years, mostly in and around Chennai. Other than in Thoothukudi in 2024, where one worker died, such accidents have at worst led to the hospitalisation of large numbers of people with eye irritation and breathing difficulties. There were no casualties even when an estimated 67.638 tonnes of ammonia leaked from the undersea pipeline of a private company in Ennore during Cyclone Michaung in 2023. The scale of the tragedy at St. Peter & Paul Seafood Exports Pvt. Ltd., Tiruvallur, indicates that the colourless pungent gas may have accumulated in the atmosphere at fatal concentrations. The leak occurred when workers were resting in factory accommodation, on Sunday. Had the incident occurred on a working day, the number of people exposed to the leak from the ammonia pipeline to the ice-flake machinery could have been significantly higher.

While a committee comprising the Director of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH), the Member Secretary of the TN Pollution Control Board, and the Additional Director of Public Health is conducting an inquiry, disturbing facts have emerged. The factory reportedly failed to rectify serious deficiencies, pointed out during an earlier DISH inspection, including the absence of a suitable alarm system and fire hydrant. It had also not obtained a revised plan approval for installing an ice-flaking machine. That matter is sub judice. Investigations will reveal whether these shortcomings had any bearing in this tragedy. What is clear, however, is that had the recommendations made by DISH in the Ennore case been universally enforced in factories using ammonia, the scale of the current tragedy could have been contained. DISH had recommended the provision of adequate ammonia sensors in the plant and surrounding areas for early warning, along with water-curtain systems linked to ammonia alarms and fire-water nozzles for ammonia feed pumps to reduce the impact of leaks. The government has now decided to form a committee to inspect all 6,669 hazardous industries. However, numerous checks and balances exist under the Tamil Nadu Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards Rules, 1994. What is required is strict enforcement through a coordinated approach, stronger penalties for violators, and the political will to act decisively against them.

Stay with the evidence

Better monitoring of sale of banned drugs is essential

The character of science leans to openness: to new evidence and emerging facts. Its ability to be agile to pivot and shift to newer guidelines is therefore absolutely crucial. The Health Ministry's recent ban on 16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs comes on the evidence that these drug combinations lack therapeutic justification, are 'deemed irrational or unsafe' and might pose risks to patients. The drugs include dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations. An FDC is a drug containing two or more active pharmacological ingredients, combined in a fixed ratio in a single dosage. These were meant to improve treatment compliance in chronic conditions (such as Tuberculosis) by reducing the pill burden and, sometimes, by improved therapeutic effectiveness. However, irrational combinations, besides being ineffective, can also be counter-productive and harmful. As per the latest order, all State Drug Controllers, regulatory authorities, and enforcement agencies are to ensure strict implementation and compliance with the recent notification. Instructions must also be sent to manufacturers, importers, distributors, and even individual pharmacies, to stop stocking and selling the banned FDCs.

This is not the first time that the Health Ministry is cracking down on FDCs. A detailed scientific review is undertaken before these decisions to ban FDCs are taken. In March 2016, the government banned a whopping number of over 330 FDC drugs, on the ground that they were irrational, with immediate effect. While FDCs offer the advantage of a reduction in the number of pills, of certain benefit to certain categories of patients, there are some innate issues as well: patients might need different titrations of doses, impossible with FDCs; patients might develop allergies, but it will not be clear what particular pharmaceutical ingredient they are reacting to. It is also clear that all patients may not actually need all the drugs in the combination, exposing them to unnecessary side effects. A further potential harm exists with FDCs of antibiotics: In 2016, 19% of the 330 FDCs banned were antibiotics; There is enough evidence to show that irrational antibiotic FDC drug usage leads to or exacerbates the growing antimicrobial resistance problem in the country. While the government has taken a positive step with banning these FDCs, its work has just begun. In many instances in the past, stocks of banned drugs were still being sold in pharmacies, because the message had not percolated down. While staying solidly on the side of evidence-based medicine, the government must also activate its monitoring and supervision arm in order to ensure that the benefits from the ban reach the last mile.

The challenge of India's digital sovereignty

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In the modern world, digital infrastructure is the track on which commerce, government, and national security run. Seen in this context, recent reports of Indian closed-circuit television (CCTV) networks being compromised by hostile entities to gain access to information on India's strategic defence assets (April 2026), along with an incident in July 2025, in which Nayara Energy was abruptly denied access to its corporate email, collaboration tools, and cloud-stored data, raise serious concerns about the future of India's digital and technological sovereignty. While the CCTV security breach was attributed to the use of the Chinese software platform EseeCloud in the CCTV equipment, the Nayara episode was a result of Microsoft Corporation's unilateral enforcement of European Union (EU) sanctions against Nayara Energy due to the stake held in it by the Russian energy giant Rosneft.

These incidents have exposed an uncomfortable reality: critical Indian digital infrastructures such as authentication systems, productivity suites, and cloud platforms operate on technology platforms owned and operated by foreign technology giants. Even when data is physically stored in India, under certain existing global data governance regimes, foreign cloud technology companies can be compelled to provide data within their possession to their home governments. As a result, effective control over digital infrastructure shifts away from Indian entities to overseas corporations and foreign governments.

Foreign control, national risk

The major implication is that the functioning of Indian businesses and critical government services built on foreign technology platforms becomes vulnerable to decisions made by external sovereigns. Directives issued by external sovereigns to deny access to critical digital technology to Indian entities could suspend government operations, collapse trade and commerce, halt manufacturing, and weaken defence capabilities.

For instance, since contemporary warfare is software-defined, the intelligence embedded in fighter aircraft, missile systems, and advanced radar installations resides not in hardware but in code that remains under the control of manufacturers answerable to foreign governments. In conflict scenarios, these manufacturers could possibly degrade targeting accuracy, reduce operational range, or worse, redirect battlefield intelligence to adversaries due to instructions from external sovereigns, all through software configuration changes. A case in point is the 1999 Kargil conflict, during which India faced limitations on access to precise GPS support at a moment when navigation and targeting in mountainous terrain were operationally decisive.

Digital sovereignty is essential for India's technological security and strategic autonomy

India's unique situation

The vulnerability and the risks of dependence on foreign digital infrastructure are being recognised globally. France plans to shift government departments from Microsoft Teams and Zoom to a sovereign video-conferencing platform by 2027. The Netherlands, Denmark, and several German states are exploring domestic alternatives to critical United States software and cloud services such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, and Teams. The EU is seeking to reduce its dependence on American technology through independent European cloud and IT infrastructure, while Türkiye is lessening its reliance on foreign technologies.

However, unlike other nations, India's situation is uniquely precarious when contextualised within the framework of Power Transition Theory, which posits that when a rising power, desirous of maintaining strategic autonomy, approaches parity with an established hegemon, the latter invariably acts to constrain the former. History demonstrates that rising competitors are contained or co-opted. We already see it being played out on a much larger scale between the U.S. and China. With an accelerating growth trajectory, India has been inching towards this critical zone while facing a daunting task: building its economic fortune on a technology infrastructure independent of foreign influence.

The strategy to address this challenge must be multipronged. The denial of GPS access during the Kargil conflict spurred India to develop its own satellite navigation system. More recently, efforts to strengthen the domestic semiconductor ecosystem and migrate the email systems of some central government ministries to the homegrown Zoho platform reflect a growing commitment to digital and technological sovereignty. India's success in building indigenous payments infrastructure through UPI and RuPay has shown that vulnerabilities arising from foreign-controlled systems can be overcome. This model can be extended to cloud infrastructure, e-commerce platforms, authentication systems, and defence technologies.

To de-risk dependence on foreign defence technologies, India could emulate aspects of the U.S.'s defence production and procurement model. While India has long recognised the importance of self-reliance in defence manufacturing, its heavy reliance on the public sector has not delivered the desired results. The absence of an indigenous modern fighter aircraft despite the programme having begun in the 1980s is a stark reminder of this shortcoming. In contrast, American defence platforms are largely developed by private corporations, with the government providing research funding and assured procurement. This creates a virtuous cycle in which companies develop cutting-edge capabilities while remaining aligned with national strategic interests. India has recently begun moving in this direction by inviting private-sector participation in the development of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft under a competitive framework.

Another way to safeguard digital sovereignty is to develop critical technologies and digital infrastructure in partnership with other countries. This ensures mutual dependence, reducing the risk of unilateral actions that could undermine India's strategic interests. The BrahMos missile programme, jointly developed by India and Russia, is a notable example. A key advantage of this approach is that it enables India to build technological capabilities without risking international isolation, unlike China which allowed only indigenous companies to develop critical technologies. Seen in this context, two recent developments are encouraging. The first is the commencement of commercial production at Micron Technology's semiconductor Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) facility in Sanand, Gujarat, established through India-U.S. technology cooperation. The second is India's decision to join Pax Silica, the U.S.-led initiative on AI and supply-chain security aimed at reducing dependence on Chinese technology and strengthening trusted technology partnerships.

Close the R&D gap

Above all, India must urgently raise its research and development (R&D) spending to levels comparable with global leaders. India's gross expenditure on R&D averaged just 0.74% of GDP between 2000 and 2020 against a global average of 2.07%. This persistent R&D spending deficit raises serious concerns about India's future technological and digital sovereignty. For a country of India's demographic scale and economic ambitions, seeking to approach parity with established powers, the question is not whether it can afford comprehensive technological sovereignty, but whether it can afford to forgo it. The extent to which India succeeds in mitigating the risks to its technological sovereignty will determine its economic competitiveness and strategic autonomy in an increasingly fragmented international order.

The views expressed are personal

The world that China desires and is shaping

Manoj Kewalramani

Chairperson of the Geostrategy Programme at the Takshashila Institution

The sheer destructiveness of American foreign policy under United States President Donald Trump is obscuring a quiet but consequential shift in global politics. Mr. Trump's Liberation Day tariffs, the disastrous war against Iran, and systematic alienation of allies and partners have dominated headlines and consumed diplomatic bandwidth. And rightly so. The U.S., architect of the post-war international order, is now taking a machete to the very frameworks it built. But the chaos emanating from Washington is drawing attention away from what China is doing with the space this creates.

The Chinese alternative

Last week, Beijing released a white paper on global governance, which offers a systematic articulation of how it is reshaping the world order. As expected, the paper presents China as a defender of the international system, warning that humanity must not be allowed to return to "the law of the jungle". Beijing argues that it has paid its United Nations dues ahead of schedule in 2025; it has backed the restoration of the WTO's Appellate Body; and its four global initiatives are a demonstration of its responsibility as a great power. This is not, however, the full picture. A close reading of China's diplomacy shows that it is not simply defending the post-war order. Rather, it is selectively revising it, largely preserving the institutional scaffolding while quietly rewriting the normative substance that gives it meaning.

Understanding this requires disaggregating the international order into two dimensions: the institutional and the normative. The institutional order comprises the UN system, the Bretton Woods institutions, and the multilateral architecture built in the years following the Second World War. The normative order encompasses the principles that animate these institutions, from Westphalian norms of sovereignty and non-interference to liberal norms of human rights, democratic governance, free markets, and the rule of law. On the institutional front, Beijing is deeply invested. It is the second-largest contributor to the UN budget, having raised its share of the UN regular budget from under 1% in 2000 to over 20% in 2025, a proactive participant in WTO reform, and a builder of complementary institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. These are not designed to replace the existing system but to expand China's authority within it while creating parallel platforms that advance its agenda. This is institutional revisionism, not revolution.

China's recent white paper outlines a transformation of the norms beneath the international order

Normative ambitions

The real action, however, is in the normative domain, where China's ambitions are far more transformative. Beijing's four global initiatives —on development, security, civilisation, and governance – collectively represent a sustained campaign of norm entrepreneurship. Individually, each sounds benign. The Global Development Initiative links itself to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) calls for respecting civilisational diversity. The Global Security Initiative (GSI) emphasises sovereignty and non-interference. And the Global Governance Initiative explicitly says that reform "does not mean to overturn the existing international order".

But look closer. The GSI's emphasis on taking "legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously" has been operationalised to dilute Ukraine's sovereign right to choose its own alliances, a position that conveniently serves Beijing's broader interest in weakening the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The GCI's call for diverse interpretations of universal values is, in practice, an effort to recast human rights as culturally contingent rather than universal, shielding authoritarian governance from scrutiny. And China's redefinition of democracy in explicitly outcome-based terms, where legitimacy derives from material delivery rather than political participation, institutional independence, or accountability, represents a fundamental departure from liberal norms.

Meanwhile, China's own behaviour reveals the limits of its professed commitment even to the Westphalian norms it champions. In the South China Sea, it rejected the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling as "null and void". Along its borders with India and Bhutan, periodic standoffs persist. The Belt and Road Initiative, while framed as development cooperation, has often blurred the line between external partnership and internal influence in recipient states.

A different world

Seen in this light, what emerges is a picture not of a revolutionary power seeking to torch the existing system, but of a sophisticated selective revisionist – one that preserves the institutional architecture it finds useful while systematically hollowing out the normative foundations to align with its objectives. Beijing supports sovereignty when it suits its interests and dilutes it when it does not. It endorses multilateralism in trade while practising selective openness and securitisation at home.

This matters enormously at a moment when reckless American policies appear to be making Beijing's revisionism seem palatable to many. The risk is not that the institutional order collapses. Both Washington and Beijing, for different reasons, remain invested in its survival. The risk is that the principles animating that order are gradually redefined in a way that undermines the sovereign equality of states, weakens civil society and individual rights, and erodes the rule of law. This is a future that does not align with India's strategic interests.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Invoking history

The Prime Minister's recent remarks in West Bengal, suggesting that the State is now "free of shackles" and invoking a selective interpretation of Bengal's history, deserve closer scrutiny. Political leaders are entitled to celebrate electoral victories, but they must exercise greater responsibility when referring to historical events that shaped the nation. Historical records show that the proposal for an independent and undivided Bengal was advanced by leaders such as Sarat Chandra Bose and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. The Congress leadership, however, did not endorse the idea of a sovereign United Bengal and ultimately supported the partition of Bengal in view of the prevailing political circumstances and communal realities of the time. To portray the Congress as having actively sought to merge the entirety of Bengal into Pakistan is therefore historically inaccurate. More importantly, one may disagree with the Congress on numerous issues, but it cannot be denied that the party played a central role in India's freedom struggle. What is particularly disappointing is the continued reliance on divisive historical rhetoric by those occupying the highest constitutional offices. After more than a decade in power, citizens reasonably expect discussions on employment, industrial growth, public health, education, environmental challenges, energy security, and inflation.

Aditya Das,
Bhowali, Uttarakhand

Deflect, repeat

Passing the buck seems to be the mantra of the present age. If employment cannot be generated, brand the unemployed as "cockroaches".
If people within the system, driven by greed, leak National Eligibility cum Entrance Test papers, ban the messaging app Telegram. If the nation's foreign relations deteriorate, blame Jawaharlal Nehru.
The government of the day appears to have an excuse for every political manoeuvre undertaken to capture power in States that were once governed by Opposition parties, be it Delhi, West Bengal, Maharashtra or Goa. The moot question, however, remains: can all the people be fooled all the time?

P.R. Ravinder,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials

A Trojan horse has breached the IITs

Vasudevan Mukunth

For a few decades now, a project called the 'Indian Knowledge System' (IKS) has sought to integrate traditional Indian wisdom into modern educational curricula. There is a legitimate quest to reclaim India's indigenous intellectual history and to elevate an informal cultural aspiration into a part of education – but the IKS of today is not it.

The real IKS might focus on the linguistics of Panini, the Nyaya school of logic, the Kerala school of mathematics, the development of Wootz steel, and so on. But the IKS being institutionalised, including under IIT-Mandi director Laxmidhar Behera, is concerned with "Puranic science", mythology as history, ritual as technology, and an open contempt for verifiability.

The more aggressive avatar of IKS was formalised by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It began by documenting breakthroughs in metallurgy and ancient mathematics before increasingly blurring the lines between historical scholarship and theological revivalism. There are now IKS hubs at IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Gandhinagar, IIT-Bombay, and IIT-Kanpur. Those at Kanpur and Mandi in particular have emerged as 'leaders' in the "research" of "consciousness", reincarnation, and "Vedic" biology. These words are within quote marks because, as with the IKS, what they claim to stand for in name is not what they stand for in substance.

Proponents of pseudoscience

The IKS centres' proponents say they endeavour to "decolonise" the Indian mind. This is farcical. The Bengal renaissance of the 19th century, including figures such as Jagadish Chandra Bose and Prafulla Chandra Ray, synthesised Indian identity with rigorous scientific study and proved that decolonisation does not have to open the door to pseudoscience. The IKS centres intend to embed myth-based inquiries in the framework of the IITs, leveraging the institutes' prestige to acquire for their politico-religious dogma a veneer of scientific legitimacy.

The Indian Knowledge System centres intend to embed myth-based inquiries in the framework of the IITs

Recently, IIT-Mandi and IIT-Kanpur hosted a "special session" dedicated to the "science" of reincarnation. The programme proposed using EEG data and astrological birth charts to track "past life memories" in children. The event was attended by speakers from the University of Virginia's Department of Perceptual Studies (DOPS), itself a controversial entity.

The event was a crisis in higher education. Pseudoscience is now well and truly institutionalised, and the participating IITs have signalled their willingness to trade their academic credentials for theological dogma. The 'researchers' at the event discussed building a "systematic methodology" for a universal metaphysical claim based on one six-year-old in north India. This is normally called an anecdote.

To suggest one child's neural response could 'validate' the concept of reincarnation does a disservice to the best traditions of Indian philosophy. They remain excellent not as peculiar products of their times but because their exponents thought sincerely and carefully about what facts they had. To have the facts we do today and still believe a 'study' with a cohort size of one or using a physicalist entity (EEG) to prove a dualist theory (reincarnation) to be credible is silly.

The 'researchers' proposed to show the child their "past-life-related stimuli", such as photos of a spouse from a 'previous life', and record the brain's reaction. Given that the group's own protocol involved "developing familiarity" with the child and collecting photos from the "claimed previous-life family" before the test, the 'researchers' are fundamentally creating the very stimuli they claim to be 'discovering'. This is called confirmation bias. Including astrology in this mix is nonsense.

The IKS centres partnered with DOPS for "Western" credibility but the work at DOPS has been notorious for its methodological looseness. Critics have pointed out that in the interval between a death and a supposed rebirth, the 'previous family' and the 'current family' seem to have ample opportunity to meet, communicate, and line up their stories to fit a cultural narrative of reincarnation. The 'researchers' also did not examine the fact that "past life memories" are almost exclusively reported in cultures that already believe in reincarnation.

Forceful approach

After years of trying to change academia from the outside-in using student violence and by revising textbooks, it seems the Hindutva programme has finished shifting its strategy to an inside-out approach with top-down force. Doctoral students were required to attend the "special session". The centres have used IIT funds and research fellows to 'hunt' ghosts as fieldwork. The University Grants Commission's 2023 guidelines require all students of higher education to take IKS courses for credit. The IITs' administrators know they are compromising the institutions' reputation, but they are willing to risk that because their goal is not scientific leadership. It is domestic ideological consolidation.

The spreading rot of pseudoscience at the IITs will encourage top-tier Indian talent to move to universities abroad that still see the line between decolonising and science. Good international scientists beginning to look down on IIT degrees because of these "special sessions" will also serve the "atmanirbhar" narrative by separating an elite Indian education from global standards of rationalism. Ultimately, the loop will be closed to leave Indian scholars to be judged only by their loyalty to a specific civilisational project.

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Citizens interests and conservation

Efforts to preserve the Pallikaranai wetland should not overlook legal landowners

STATE OF PLAY

Kalaiselvan Periyasamy

Environmental protection has rightly become a major public policy priority. The Pallikaranai Marshland in Chennai, one of south India's last surviving natural wetlands and a designated Ramsar Site, deserves protection for its role in flood mitigation, groundwater recharge, and biodiversity conservation. However, restrictions associated with the marshland and its proposed 'Influence Zone' have raised concerns among thousands of lawful landowners, creating a broader public policy challenge involving environmental governance, property rights, and public confidence in regulatory institutions.

The proceedings before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the restrictions of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) on the new one-kilometre 'Influence Zone' of the marshland raise important concerns. For instance, approximately 85% to 90% of the 8,537-acre 'Influence Zone' had already been designated as a "development area" under CMDA's Second Master Plan (2008) for the promotion of residential, institutional, commercial, and industrial activities. Multiple government agencies informed the NGT that key aspects of the wetland boundary, 'Influence Zone', and long-term regulatory framework remained under study.

The consequences of these restrictions are already visible. Across Pallikaranai, Perumbakkam, Sholinganallur, Karapakkam, Perungudi, Semmancheri, and adjoining neighbourhoods, thousands

of families have invested their life savings in residential plots and housing projects. Many are salaried employees, retirees, first-generation homeowners, small entrepreneurs, and middle-class families who purchased property legally after years of financial sacrifice. For such families, land is more than a financial asset, and uncertainty affects not only financial planning but also their emotional well-being.

Consider the case of a citizen who purchased a modest residential plot 20 years ago after complying with every legal requirement. Registration charges were paid, property taxes were regularly remitted, and bank loans were serviced diligently. Today, that individual is unsure whether future development permissions will be available because his land falls within a yet-to-be-understood "Influence Zone" whose regulatory contours are still being formulated.

The need for balance

Though real and significant, social costs associated with deferred home ownership seldom enter technical reports or planning documents. Delayed housing decisions affect retirement planning, educational investments, family security, and long-term financial stability. Moreover, regulatory uncertainty erodes confidence across the business chain. The resulting disruption can have ripple effects that may take a toll on construction, engineering, architecture, transportation, material supply, and numerous small business sectors that depend on housing and infrastructure development.

The OMR Information Technology (IT) Corridor, stretching from Kottivakkam to Semmenchery, covers approximately 4,800 acres. As per preliminary estimates, about 60% (2,850 acres) of this overlaps with the 'Influence Zone'. Thanks to the present restrictions, a substantial portion of one of Chennai's most important and employment-generating corridors now faces uncertainty in obtaining new development approvals. Yet another dimension of the Pallikaranai debate remains largely unexplored. There are claims of lawfully acquired private lands existing within the Ramsar Site boundary delineated by the CMDA. If verified, such claims could raise questions about historical land administration, registrations, and approvals. The answers may reveal a governance challenge far more complex than the current debate on the buffer zone.

Environmental protection should not become an exclusionary or punitive process. The protection of the Pallikaranai Marsh is unquestionably important. Equally important are the legitimate expectations of citizens who acquired property lawfully. A mature democracy must be capable of protecting both. As the Integrated Management Plan for the Pallikaranai wetland moves toward completion, regulations, public consultation, and fair transitional measures can help balance conservation with citizen welfare.

The writer is an environmental and social expert.

What would it take to stop South Korea's population decline?

Fertility rates, life expectancy, or migration rates should change dramatically so that the country can maintain a roughly constant population

DATA POINT

Hannah Ritchie
Sophia Mermann
Daniel Bachler

South Korea's population is expected to decline substantially and may halve in about six decades, as per the United Nations's projections. By 2100, the UN projects that there will be just 22 million people in South Korea, which is just 42% of its estimated population of 52 million in 2026 **(Chart 1)**. These projections rely on assumptions about how the drivers of population change – births, deaths, and migration – will change in the coming decades.

In **Chart 2**, the UN's assumptions for the three key metrics in this population model – fertility rate, life expectancy, and net migration – have been plotted.

While no one knows with certainty how many children people will have in 2080, or what the migration rate will be in 2060, it is worth asking what the population will look like if things turn out differently from what the UN's population model shows. This article tries to explore how fertility rates, life expectancy, or migration rates should change for South Korea to maintain a roughly constant population.

One way to boost the population is for people to have more children. South Korea has seen a dramatic decline in fertility rates over the last 60 years. In 1960, the average woman had six children. Since then, it has declined to just 0.75 children. Our World in Data's population model shows that a reversal in the change in fertility rate to the level of 2.1 children per woman by 2050 would ensure that the country's population would stay close to current levels.

In other words, South Korea would need to see a substantial "baby boom" in the next few decades. A smaller increase in fertility rates would slow the decline, but it wouldn't stop it.

Another driver of population growth is increasing lifespans. **Chart 3** shows that the average life expectancy should sharply increase by about 50 years from its present level. If average life expectancy increases to 130 years by 2050, South Korea could keep its population constant for several more decades. However, ultimately, low fertility rates will lead to a decline, even if life expectancy increases substantially.

Moreover, reaching 130 years of life expectancy within the next few decades would require a dramatic acceleration in the rate of improvement. In recent decades, the countries with the highest life expectancy have taken four years to increase average life expectancy by one year. At those rates, it would take 188 years to increase life expectancy from 83 to 130 years. South Korea would need to do it in 25.

The appeal of migration

The other option for South Korea is to look elsewhere. Rather than relying on an increase in population from births or higher life expectancy, it could make it easier for people to move to the country. Currently, the net migration rate for South Korea, which is the difference between the number of people entering and leaving, is around 1.3 people per 1,000 residents each year. This is among the lower net migration rates in the world **(Chart 4)**. The projection shows that it would require a net migration rate of about nine immigrants per 1,000 people annually, which is about seven times higher than South Korea's current rate.

The most realistic of the three scenarios would be the attempt to increase fertility rates to about 2.3 within a few decades and make it stay there. Those rates are not unprecedented by any means but such a strong reversal would be unique following the huge decline in fertility rates across the world over the last half-century.

An irreversible decline?

The charts were sourced from Our World in Data's online article titled, "South Korea's population is set to shrink: what would it take to stop the decline?", published in 2026

CHART 1: Historical estimates of South Korea's population and projections (dotted line) as per the UN World Population Prospects

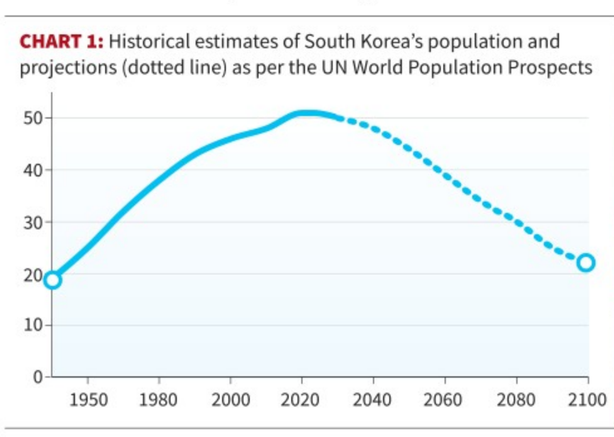


CHART 2: UN's projections about South Korea's drivers of population change: fertility rate, life expectancy, and migration

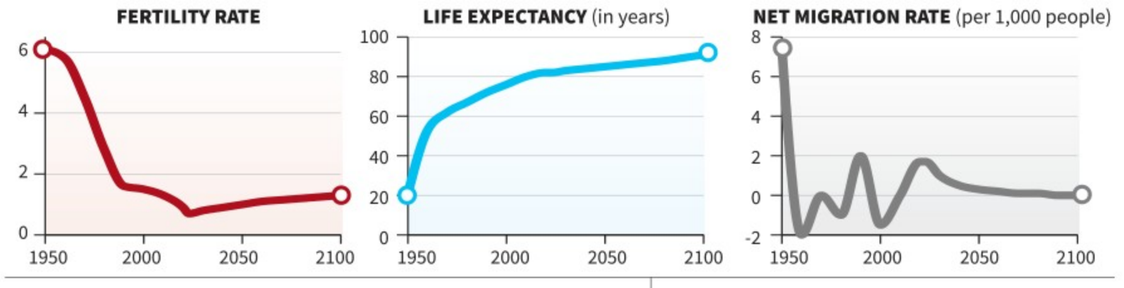


CHART 3: Projected age and gender-wise composition of South Korea

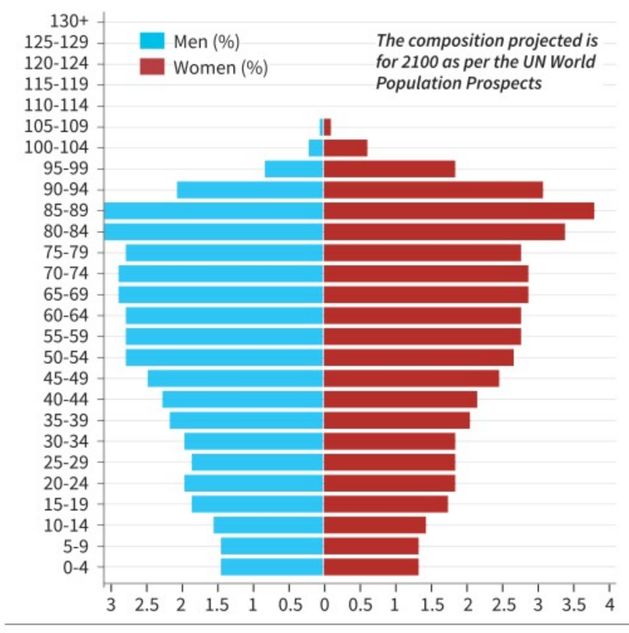
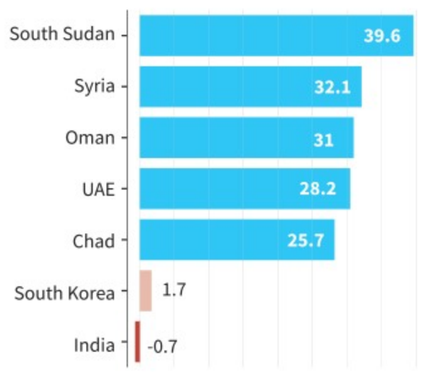


CHART 4: The five countries with the highest annual net migration rates, along with South Korea and India, as of 2023



Net migration rate is calculated based on the difference between the total number of immigrants and the number of emigrants, per 1,000 people. Positive values mean more people moved in than out

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 23, 1976

Unsold Hindi books pose a problem

New Delhi, June 21: The Hindi Granth Akademies and the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, which were entrusted with the task of bringing out textbooks in Hindi on various subjects has found themselves in the unenviable position of having to find the buyers for these books. To facilitate switch-over to Hindi as the medium of instruction the Hindi Granth Akademies were established in Hindi areas to take up production of textbooks. The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology was also associated in this massive programme and 1008 textbooks have so far been brought out. But it was found that only 200 of them have so far been prescribed or recommended by the universities in the Hindi States. The strange part of this is that these books have been written by reputed teachers of these universities who are already connected with the boards of studies in the State Government. Moreover, these books have been recommended by the subject-panels of professors and heads of department of the five Hindi-speaking States and the Central Government had thought that the universities, whose teachers had written the books, would prescribe them for their approved courses.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 23, 1926

World migration conference

London, June 22: The World Migration Conference was opened at Holborn restaurant to-day when 150 delegates were present.

Mr. Thomas was unable to attend and Mr. Martens (Belgium) presided.

Mr. Brown one of the Secretaries of the International Federation of Trade Unions emphasised that this was the first time emigration had been the sole subject of a Labour World Congress. He pointed out that migrants from Europe during the five years ending 1924 were under three and a half millions compared with seven millions in the five years ended in 1913, the decline chiefly being due to restrictions on immigration. He referred to the importance of the silent penetration of Asia by the Chinese and also the movement of African natives to mining and agricultural centres.

From Page One

15 die in building fire, victims mostly students

Abhishek Mishra, a resident of the locality, said the fire broke out at the animation centre on the second floor and "quickly spread inside the building, trapping people".

"Fire department personnel had to break the wall on the rear side of the building to gain entry and rescue those trapped. Many people jumped from the building, and we immediately took them to hospital," Mr. Mishra said.

Uttar Pradesh Congress unit president Ajay Rai said the incident exposed the "failure of the BJP government" and called for a high-level investigation into the incident.

"This is a big example of gross negligence. The State capital, where the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers and many MLAs live, such a big incident happening there shows the failure of the BJP government. The government must answer. A high-level investigation should be conducted into this matter. My deepest condolences go out to the families of the victims," the Congress leader said.

"This is a very sad incident.Around a dozen youth died, a high-level inquiry has been ordered. The government stands with the victim's families. Thirteen children have been rescued," said Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav also demanded an investigation and said, "Our deepest condolences go out to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones. The government should ensure best medical treatment for the injured... The reasons behind this should be probed honestlyWe should all strive to prevent such tragic incidents in the future."

Starmer announces his resignation as U.K. PM

"Keir has given huge service to our country, and I want to thank him for his leadership and dedication during such a challenging period," Mr. Burnham said, adding, "His decision marks the beginning of a transition, and it is important that this process is conducted in an orderly and responsible way. I will put myself forward as part of this process," Former Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham said.

For a man who has been criticised for lacking an emotional connection with voters, Mr. Starmer spoke through tears towards the end of his remarks outside Downing Street when he mentioned his children and his wife, Victoria, who was standing a few feet away. His family would be his focus once he stepped down, Mr. Starmer said, before standing in front of the black door to No. 10 with his wife, not waving this time, but looking crestfallen.

With former Health Secretary Wes Streeting confirming that he would support Mr. Burnham's candidacy, the former Mayor is expected to run unchallenged, unless another MP decides to join the race. If he runs unchallenged, Mr. Burnham could be sworn in as Prime Minister before the U.K. Parliament goes into recess on July 17.

Swiss talks laid a 'good foundation' for deal: U.S.

Under the memorandum of understanding signed last week between Washington and Tehran, the United States agreed to issue waivers for the export of Iranian crude oil, petroleum products, and derivatives, and all associated services, including banking transactions, insurances, and transportation.

"We laid a very good foundation for a successful final deal," Mr. Vance told presspersons at Switzerland's luxury Burgenstock resort, adding that "the final deal is the house... We have not built the house, but we have laid a successful foundation to get to a good place for the American people".

"Encouraging progress has been made including the creation of a mechanism for further technical talks," the mediators said, detailing a contact channel set up to "avoid incidents and miscommunication" in the Strait of Hormuz.

Switzerland said conditions had been set for technical talks to immediately follow, with the two sides at the beginning of a 60-day period to secure a long-term settlement.

"The Swiss facilitator welcomes the constructive progress made during the intensive diplomatic talks," the Swiss Foreign Ministry said in a statement, adding that the road map agreed during the first round of talks "creates the conditions for the immediate resumption of new technical discussions".

Last week, Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum of understanding laying the groundwork for the negotiations.

The negotiators aim at tackling some of the most intractable issues that have dogged U.S.-Iranian relations for decades, including Tehran's nuclear programme, including its stockpile of enriched uranium and its right to enrich more.

Tehran and Washington have set up communication lines to end the fighting in Lebanon and to keep the vital Strait of Hormuz open, mediators said. Iran is also set to get some form of sanctions relief from Washington, with some assets unfrozen.

A "de-confliction cell", between the parties and the Lebanese authorities has also been agreed to prevent fighting from erupting again, they said.

(With inputs from Reuters)

Screams, calls, and a wait that never seemed to end

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

"*Mujhe jaane do apne bete ke paas* (Let me go to my son)," screamed a grief-stricken mother, struggling to break free as relatives of those trapped rushed to the three-storey building in Aliganj here after receiving frantic phone calls from inside the building engulfed in flames.

Outside, anguished families watched helplessly as thick black smoke and flames swallowed the animation centre where 15 people, most of them students, lost their lives on Monday afternoon.

Even before fire tenders reached the spot, local residents became the first responders. They smashed the building's glass panes, hoping to let the choking smoke escape and save those stuck inside.

One of the most harrowing moments was captured in visuals showing a student jumping from an upper floor to escape the flames. People below quickly spread a mattress-like object to cushion the fall, following which locals immediately rushed him for medical assistance.

Scenes of anguish and helplessness unfolded outside the building as parents and relatives rushed to the spot after receiving distress calls from their loved ones trapped inside. Some women were seen pleading with police personnel to let them enter the building.

A woman breaks down at the site of the fire at Aliganj in Lucknow on Monday. ANI

Dhiraj Mehra reached the site after receiving a frantic call from his colleague, Aditya Srivastava. "He called me saying '*bacha lo*' (save me), and I rushed to the site," Mr. Mehra recalled.

Among those who joined the rescue was Lance Naik Chhabi Ram, who happened to be passing by when he noticed the blaze. Mr. Ram said his professional experience led officials to involve him in the rescue work. He said he helped in the relief operation and saw more than a dozen bodies being brought out from the building, while several people were also rescued alive. As firefighters battled the inferno, residents of neighbouring buildings also stepped forward to help. People living behind the affected structure supplied water bottles to firefighters engaged in the rescue operation.

As the rescue operation ended, the tragedy moved from the fire site to the hospitals and mortuary, where families faced the grim reality of the incident. The bodies of the victims were shifted from the trauma centre at King George's Medical University to the post-mortem house for identification and autopsy. Most of those who lost their lives were young adults.

Doval hosts NSAs of BRICS nations amid West Asia tensions

Doval holds talks with Iran official Ghadir Nezamipour and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at meeting to survey global security issues

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Deputy Secretary for Defence Affairs of Iran's SNSC, Ghadir Nezamipour in New Delhi. PTI

Developments in West Asia formed the dominant backdrop as National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval hosted his counterparts from BRICS grouping in New Delhi for the BRICS NSAs meeting.

Mr. Doval met Ghadir Nezamipour, Deputy Secretary for Defence Affairs of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and Secretary of Multilateral and Political Affairs of Brazil Carlos Cozendey among others who are here to attend the two-day event that will survey the security architecture of the world.

"Both sides reviewed the ongoing situation in West Asia. They also discussed cooperation under the BRICS platform and India-Iran bilateral ties," said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after Mr. Doval met Mr. Nezamipour.

The MEA said the meeting between Mr. Doval and Mr. Wang was "forward looking" and added, "The two sides reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations and noted progress towards gradual normalisation. The NSA underlined that stable, predictable and constructive bilateral relations contribute to building of trust and better understanding between the two sides."

Tehran and Beijing

The Iranian delegation held a detailed meeting with the Chinese side on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting, informed the Embassy of Iran. Mr. Nezami "expressed appreciation" for "China's political support and emphasised the importance of strengthening the strategic partnership between Tehran and Beijing, as well as Iran's readiness to respond to any potential threats."

"China's Foreign Minister reaffirmed support for Iran's security and territorial integrity, welcomed the improvement of Iran's relations with regional countries and expressed Beijing's willingness to contribute to diplomatic efforts aimed at promoting regional stability," said the Iranian Embassy, informing that the two sides will continue to "maintain close consultations".

The June 22-23 meeting of the NSAs of the BRICS countries will focus on 'non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today'. The meeting will include a review of the outcomes of BRICS Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meeting Major-General Amir Baram (retd), Director-General, Israel Defence Ministry, on Monday. ANI

India, Israel discuss expanding defence, industrial relations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Israel have discussed ways to further strengthen defence cooperation during the visit of the Major-General Amir Baram (retd), the Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Defence, to India on Monday.

Major-General Baram called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and briefed him on Israel's commitment to expanding the scope of bilateral defence cooperation under the framework of the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership.

The discussions focused on enhancing collaboration in defence manufacturing, technology, and joint projects.

In a post on X, the Defence Ministry said the meeting underscored the shared commitment of both countries to deepen defence ties and explore new avenues of cooperation.

Key pillar

India and Israel have witnessed significant growth in defence cooperation over the years, both in scope and scale.

Defence remains a key pillar of the bilateral relationship, with both countries collaborating closely in areas such as military technology, defence equipment, and research and development.

Major-General Baram said, "India is a key strategic partner of the State of Israel. This important visit, the result of a lengthy bilateral preparation process, reflects the great importance that India and Israel attach to expanding their growing defence and industrial alliance – but no less so, the depth of the bond between our two nations."

Cameras at airports to be linked to data fusion centre

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Facial recognition cameras installed at all major airports will be linked to a data fusion centre that is proposed to come up in Delhi, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Director-General Praveer Ranjan said on Monday.

Other than the airports, the feed from around 1.5 lakh surveillance cameras installed at vital installations across the country will also be linked to the data fusion centre, Mr. Ranjan said on the occasion of foundation laying ceremony of the new CISF headquarters at CGO complex in Delhi.

The facial recognition cameras installed at six major airports in the country are further proposed to be integrated with the National Intelligence Grid to enhance real-time monitoring, suspect identification and support to law enforcement agencies, a senior CISF official said.

The Union Home Ministry has asked the States to liberally use the platform to access datasets, which include details of driving licence, vehicle registration, Aadhaar, airline data, bank records, and travel details of foreigners and Indians, suspicious transaction reports from Financial Intelligence Unit, and also extract and analyse data from social media posts.

UAE in talks to buy Indian air-defence units, missiles

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Indian government is in talks with the United Arab Emirates to sell some of its flagship defence systems, including the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos, four Indian sources said, as the Gulf nation steps up arms procurement following the war in West Asia.

The discussions include the potential sale of India's air defence system Akashteer, sources told *Reuters*. "The UAE has shown interest for a number of our weapon systems, including BrahMos and Akashteer. The talks between India and UAE are at initial stages and are progressing fast," said another source.

BrahMos, jointly developed by India and Russia, is among the world's fastest cruise missiles while Akashteer is a fully automated air-defence system developed by the state-run Bharat Electronics Ltd. and the Indian Army.

Bank fraud cases: CBI arrests ex-CEOs of Reliance ADA Group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Devang Mody, former Director and Chief Executive officer (CEO) of Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL), and Ravindra Sudhalkar, former executive director and CEO of Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL), in connection with alleged bank fraud cases, said the agency on Monday.

In the RCFL case, the accused caused a loss of ₹4,097 crore to 13 public sector banks (PSBs) and 10 PSBs lost about ₹3,526 crore in the RHFL matter.

Mr. Mody was CEO of RCFL from April 2017 to December 2018 and Mr. Sudhalkar served as the ED and CEO of RHFL from October 1, 2016, to March, 31, 2022. The CBI alleged Mr. Mody and Mr. Sudhalkar approved loans to intermediary and conduit companies despite such lending being contrary to the company's lending policies, borrowing conditions, and regulatory guidelines.

In the RCFL case, the accused caused a loss of ₹4,097 crore to 13 public sector banks. PTI

"The accused persons diverted funds borrowed by RCFL and RHFL to Reliance ADA Group companies, including Reliance Capital Ltd., Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. and Reliance Power Ltd., thereby causing a combined wrongful loss of ₹7,623 crore to the lending banks and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves and related entities," said the agency.

U.S. notifies sale of support services for helicopters

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

The U.S. has formally notified the proposed sale of sustainment support services and related equipment for India's Apache helicopters and M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers at an estimated cost of $482.2 million. The Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), which administers the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme of the U.S., issued the arms sales notification in the *Federal Register* on June 17.

"Just today, we announced a $230 million sale for a sustainment package for India's M777A2 ultra-light howitzers is ready to be concluded," U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said in a post on X.

In another notification, the Department of Defence said India had sought AH-64E Apache sustainment support services, U.S. government and contractor engineering and programme support.

3 injured as protesters clash with security personnel in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

At least three persons were injured in a clash between Kuki protesters enforcing a highway shutdown and security personnel in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Monday.

Kuki civil society organisations called the shutdown on National Highway no. 37 on Sunday in protest against "selective security operations" allegedly targeting villages inhabited by the Kuki-Zo people. Groups of protesters converged on the New Keithelmanbi stretch of the highway in the morning to restrict vehicular movement and demand the withdrawal of security operations. The highway connects Manipur's capital, Imphal, with Jiribam on the State's boundary with Assam.

The situation escalated after the security personnel used crowd-control measures such as smoke bombs and baton charges.

A Kuki body condemned the 'aggressive dispersal' of protesters". FILE PHOTO

At least three protesters were injured in the melee. The local unit of the Kuki Inpi, an apex community organisation, condemned the "aggressive and forceful dispersal of peaceful protesters".

Criticising the authorities for failing to address public concerns, the Kuki Inpi unit blamed the ethnic tensions on the National Socialist Council of Nagalim and the Kamson faction of the Zeliangrong United Front, both Naga armed groups.

Fault lines surface as Manish kept out of talks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Factionalism within the Punjab Congress came to the fore during consultations on organisational changes in the State unit, with senior leader and Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari left out of the exercise.

In a cryptic post on X, Mr. Tewari invoked history to argue that factionalism has been Punjab's worst enemy. "Maharaja Ranjit Singh died on June 27, 1839. On March 29, 1849, the Sikh Empire was officially dissolved. Established on April 12, 1801, it lasted a mere 48 years. Internal squabbles post the demise of Maharaja Ranjit Singh brought about this ignominious end. Infighting has been the bane of Punjab since times immemorial," he posted.

His remarks came a day after senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met five Punjab leaders in Delhi, including former Chief Minister and Jalandhar MP Charanjit Singh Channi and Congress Legislature Party leader Partap Singh Bajwa.

Rebels remove Mamata as Trinamool chairperson

Arup Roy was unanimously picked as the new chairperson, says Leader of the Opposition; developments were comical, there cannot be a Trinamool without Mamata, says Kunal Ghosh

Shiv Sahay Singh
Senjuti Sengupta
KOLKATA

Rebel MLAs of the Trinamool Congress on Monday removed party founder and former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from the post of chairperson at a meeting held in Kolkata on Monday.

Former Minister Arup Roy was unanimously picked as the new chairperson of the party, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Ritabrata Banerjee told presspersons after the meeting of the rebel group.

Mr. Ritabrata, Sandipan Saha, and Jawed Khan, all MLAs, were appointed general secretaries. Former Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim, former Minister Aroop Biswas, and Rathin Ghosh were named vice-presidents of the rebel faction. Raghunathganj MLA Akhruzzaman will be the new treasurer.

"We have followed all the rules of the Election Commission. We will also notify the EC about the development. Everything has been done legally," Mr. Ritabrata said.

Churn in party: Ritabrata Banerjee, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, addressing a press conference in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

When told that Ms. Mamata Banerjee remained the chairperson and Abhishek Banerjee the general secretary of the Trinamool group which is run from Kalighat, Mr. Ritabrata said he was not concerned about developments at Kalighat, and added that his faction was the real Trinamool.

"We do not know what has been announced from Kalighat. People are being appointed there but they also seem to be resigning the next day. There is no point in discussing about them," Mr. Ritabrata said.

In an interesting development, the banner hung by the rebel faction did not have a photograph of Ms. Mamata Banerjee.

Responding to the move, Beleghata MLA Kunal Ghosh, a loyalist of Ms. Mamata Banerjee, said the developments were comical and "there cannot be a Trinamool without Mamata Banerjee". "It is a comedy show. A man who has been expelled from the Trinamool is holding a special session. The matter is in court and we believe justice will be done. We do not give any importance to such comical behaviour. Trinamool is Mamata Banerjee. All else is a circus," Mr. Ghosh said.

The Trinamool was founded by Ms. Mamata Banerjee in 1998 and the party came to power in 2011 defeating the Left Front, which had been in power for 34 years. The rebellion began after the 2026 Assembly election, when the Trinamool lost to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

On June 3, 58 MLAs of the party supported Mr. Ritabrata to be the Leader of the Opposition. The number of MLAs supporting him has now increased to 65, he said.

Of the 80 Trinamool MLAs in the Assembly, 14 have thrown their weight behind Ms. Mamata Banerjee while one legislator is behind bars.

Operation Tiger successful, says Eknath as six Uddhav Sena LS MPs join his camp

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Ending days of speculation about the alleged defection of six of the nine Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena (UBT), the six MPs publicly appeared with Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday.

They announced entering the Shiv Sena, and said they would continue to work under the leadership of Mr. Shinde. "We have completed the procedure in legal, constitutional and parliamentary framework. We do foolproof operations. All the six MPs have joined the Shiv Sena. Operation Tiger has been successful," Mr. Shinde said on Monday in the presence of party legislators, Cabinet Ministers, and senior leaders.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde during an event as Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs join his camp in Mumbai on Monday. ANI

'Constitution change'

The Shiv Sena (UBT) hit out at the Shiv Sena and the BJP, claiming that it was a part of the larger plan to increase their majority so that they could change the Constitution. "The people of India stopped them in the 2024 elections. But all these things are being done so that they can change the Constitution written by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shinde stood hand in hand with all the six MPs during the press event. "We are all party workers here. Nobody will be disrespected. Your issues will be resolved with this double engine government. I assure you that you will not face any problems henceforth," he told the six MPs.

With this induction, the Shiv Sena has strengthened its position as the second largest party in Maharashtra. Its strength in the Lok Sabha has now increased from seven to 13, increasing the party's heft in the ruling NDA too.

"Amit Shah and the central leadership have been co-operating with us. We will take decisions for the welfare of the party workers, for their constituencies," he said.

The six MPs are Nagesh Patil Ashtikar, Sanjay Deshmukh, Sanjay Dina Patil, Bhausaheb Wakchoure, Omraje Nimbalkar, and Sanjay Bandu Jadhav.

Shiv Sena leader Ramdas Kadam claimed that another MP was on his way to join Mr. Shinde.

In its first Budget, Bengal BJP govt. pushes for jobs, revival of industries

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Bharatiya Janata Party government in West Bengal on Monday tabled its first Budget in the Assembly with a push for the industrial revival and creation of jobs. It also continued the State's tradition of welfare of farmers and the Backward Classes.

Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta tabled a ₹4.38-lakh-crore Budget with the promise that the aim of the newly elected government was to "build Viksit Bangla as a part of Viksit Bharat".

Mr. Dasgupta announced that the State government was going to provide employment to one lakh people in the financial year 2026-27 with 33% of the vacant posts reserved for women candidates.

Swapan Dasgupta

Another highlight of the Budget was the announcement of a 20% increase in dearness allowance (DA) for State government employees.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said the State government employees in the due course would receive DA on a par with Union government employees, a demand of the employees and a poll promise of the BJP. The Budget set aside ₹36,000 crore for Annapurna Yojana, the financial assistance scheme for women in which eligible women would receive ₹3,000 a month.

For unemployed youth, the Finance Minister announced ₹3,000 a month under the *Bhorsa Karmasathi s*cheme.

For rural employment, the West Bengal government allocated ₹14,000 crore under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM-G) scheme, which was likely to begin in the State from July. Funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) had been suspended in the State since 2022 due to Centre-State tussle.

"We have ended the needless conflict with the Centre and tried to take advantage of everything the double engine has to offer," Mr. Dasgupta said.

The Budget reintroduced a scheme of providing incentives to industry and allocated ₹5,000 crore for the purpose. The State government promised a West Bengal Industrial Promotion Framework with a thrust on industrial development through a cluster approach.

Agriculture package

For the welfare of farmers, the Budget unveiled a wide-ranging agriculture package, including ₹3,000 annual State assistance for farmers in addition to PM-KISAN benefits and a ₹200 per quintal bonus over minimum support price for paddy procurement.

Intellectual bankruptcy, says Cong. after Suvendu govt. renames Suhrawardy road

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday criticised the BJP government in West Bengal for renaming Suhrawardy Avenue in Kolkata 'Gopal Mukherjee Road', with party leader Pawan Khera accusing it of displaying "intellectual bankruptcy".

In a post on X, the Congress's media and publicity department chairman cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message in the book *Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Great Educationist* to argue that Dr. Mookerjee, Hindutva ideologue and Jana Sangh founder, had been a supporter of Dr. Hassan Suhrawardy, after whom the avenue was named. Dr. Suhrawardy was the first Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University.

Mr. Khera said the BJP's position on the issue was at odds with its own ideological references. "Bhakt-Brigade should do what it is best at doing – WhatsApp satsang with each other. Spare the country from your intellectual bankruptcy please," he wrote.

The name of the road, located in the Park Circus area, has often been criticised by right-wing groups because they believe it is named after Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, a Bengali politician who served as the last Prime Minister of undivided Bengal and later as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He has been criticised for his role in the 1946 communal violence.

Jairam writes to Sonowal, seeks clarity on Nicobar transshipment port project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh has written to Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, seeking clarifications on the proposed International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay on the Great Nicobar Island.

Making his letter public on Monday, Mr. Ramesh reiterated concerns over the ecological impact of the mega infrastructure project and said he was writing "as one among the very large number of people concerned with the ecological devastation that will be caused by its construction – the transshipment port is being pushed through," he said in the letter dated June 21.

Jairam Ramesh

Mr. Ramesh sought clarity on the proposed ownership structure of the project. Citing a PPPAC recommendation that at least 55% equity in the special purpose vehicle be held by an Indian-owned and controlled entity, he asked whether this would permit 100% private ownership or if a minimum public sector stake was envisaged.

He also questioned whether ownership would be diversified among multiple operators or whether "the airports-like situation" would be allowed.

He further asked whether the Ministry would provide viability gap funding from its own budget after the PPPAC reportedly declined the Ministry's request for such support.

– "the development of a large-scale greenfield port project" and "the challenge of diverting and establishing transshipment traffic from existing well-established ports".

'Huge risks'

"I take it that these competing well-established ports are Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang. It is extraordinary that even while recognising these huge risks – quite apart from the certainty of ecological devastation that will

BJD, Congress petitions to disqualify 11 MLAs rejected

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Speaker of the Odisha Assembly, Surama Padhy, has dismissed petitions from the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Congress seeking the disqualification of 11 MLAs who were accused of cross-voting during the Rajya Sabha election held in March.

While the BJD had suspended Arvind Mohapatra and Sanatan Mahakud for anti-party activities well before the Rajya Sabha election, the other six MLAs were suspended for allegedly going against the party whip during the Rajya Sabha elections.

Former Union Minister Dilip Ray was backed by the BJP and independent candidates. Based on party positions, Mr. Ray did not have enough support to secure a victory. However, he won the election due to support from the BJD and Congress camps.

नालको NALCO
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(A Government of India Enterprise)
NALCO Bhawan, Plot No-P/1, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha
(CIN : L27203OR1981GOI000920)
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

GLOBAL INVITATION
Bidders Registration for Alumina & Aluminium Export

Ref : NALCO/MKTG/EXP/PQ/634 Date: 17/ 06/ 2026

NALCO is a leading producer and exporter of LME registered Primary Aluminium Metal and Metallurgical Grade Calcined Alumina. The company exports around 0.025 Million MT of Aluminium Metal and 1.3 Million MT of Metallurgical Grade Calcined Alumina per annum which are accepted worldwide.

Reputed overseas buyers interested in registering with NALCO for participation in export tenders for these products are requested to visit **https://nalcoindia.com/export/export-overview/** for details. The registration of such prospective buyers is an ongoing year-round process.

Executive Director, (Marketing)

MSTC LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN : L27320WB1964GOI026211
Registered Office : Plot No.-CF 18/2, Street No.-175, AA-1C, New Town Kolkata-700156 (W.B.), Phone : 033-2340-0000
Email:mstcpf@mstcindia.co.in; Website:www.mstcindia.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to communicate that the below-mentioned ex-employees of MSTC Limited are no longer a member of the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited Contributory Provident Fund. Under these circumstances, they are requested to either withdraw their accumulated fund balance or transfer the same to their present employment:

S. No.	Emp Name	Date of Separation
1	Alok Raj	14-01-2010
2	Amit Kumar Verma	08-04-2016
3	Biraja Prasad	31-08-1998
4	Chandra Shekhar Sharma	05-01-2015
5	Debasis Tripathy	15-01-2007
6	Devanand Shukla	27-05-2016
7	Dipendra Kumar Modi	06-06-2006
8	Dnyaneshwar Shankar Kharatmal	08-09-2017
9	Haroon Hussain	09-04-2016
10	Kunal Goyal	30-11-2014
11	Md Mujahid	31-12-2011
12	Nilanjan Das	Long Ago
13	P Sreejith	10-12-2012
14	Prankit Namdeo	30-03-2019
15	P Thanga Kuberan	Long Ago
16	Prabhat Kumar	27-06-1997
17	Prithvijit Chaudhuri	11-05-2006
18	Raunak Baheti	09-12-2016
19	Rohit Chaudhary	30-11-2014
20	S P Songa	15-06-1998
21	Shauzab Abbas Kazmi	05-06-2005
22	Shiv Prakash Chaurasia	31-01-2011
23	Sudipt Mishra	28-12-2018
24	T C Bhutia	19-01-1994
25	Tirtha Pratim Sahu	28-05-2009
26	Tushar Subhash Tayade	22-12-2006
27	Vignesh Ramkumar	13-09-2013

Such withdrawal / transfer will be beneficial to them since their accumulated Provident Fund balance is not eligible for any interest after 3 Years of their separation from MSTC Limited.

For MSTC Limited
Sd/-
Chairman
Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited
Contributory Provident Fund Trust

Date: June 23, 2026
Place: Kolkata

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : E-Tender No.04/2026-27/SE/PHC/CHN

Jal Jeevan Mission(JJM)-CWSS to Puthencruz, Thiruvaniyoor, Chottanikkara and Putrikka Panchayaths- Construction of 17MLD WTP at Choondy, Sump and Pump house, 9m dia, Well cum Pump house at Ramamangalam and allied works-General Civil Work **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/- , **Tender fee :** Rs. 19,517/- **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 20-07-2026 03:00:pm **Phone :** 0480 2360645
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-112-2026-27 **Superintending Engineer** PH Circle Kochi

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact No.: 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ-1349/PO-C&S

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites e-Tender for procurement of 4Cx25 sq.mm-1312 Km as per tender specification no. QQ-1349/PO/C&S. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 23.06.2026 (11:00 AM) onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C 671/26 **1079/12/2026-27/12578**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
Yalahanka division, Bengaluru – 560064.

No:BNCC/EE/YNK.D/KPPP/06/2025-26 **Date: 22-06-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Yalahanka Division, Bengaluru North City Corporation, Zone -2, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors firm registered in Bengaluru North City Corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Description
1.	Collection of Parking Fees for 1st A,13th A Main roads and 3rd A, 3rd B, 16th B, 15th A cross roads and Sandeep Unnikrishnan road in Yalahanka New Town Ward No. 05. **Minimum Reserve Annual License Fee: ₹ 1,10,00,000/- EMD: ₹ 2,20,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1)Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal from **23-06-2026** (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **07-07-2026** upto **4:00** pm.(3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **29-06-2026** at **3:00** pm in the office of the Chief Engineer – Zone 2, Bengaluru North City Corporation, 3rd Floor Minividhana soudha NES circle Yalahanka new town Bengaluru-64. (4)Technical Bid will be Opened on **08-07-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Yalahanka Division, BNCC

INBRIEF

Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor-General for 3 years

The Centre has reappointed Tushar Mehta the Solicitor-General of India for a further term of three years from July 1. An order in this regard was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on June 20, an official source said. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the reappointment, ensuring continuity in the government's legal representation before the Supreme Court and other constitutional courts. The Centre also reappointed five Additional Solicitors-General – Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj Suryaprakash V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati – for the Supreme Court for a three-year term.

Around 110 students fall ill after lunch at Indore school

Around 110 children fell ill after consuming food at a private school in Indore, prompting the administration to launch a probe into the matter and seal the kitchen on Monday, said officials. The district administration sealed the kitchen of the school after finding expired food items and other irregularities during an investigation into the suspected food poisoning incident, they said. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Deepak Chauhan said children from Classes 1 to 5 had consumed lunch on Saturday, and over 100 of them complained of stomach ache and vomiting. "Currently, no child is hospitalised," the officer said. PTI

Unions write to PM against free trade pact with U.S.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Several organisations of farmers, fish workers, poultry traders, winemakers, and trade unions have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that the negotiations with the U.S. for a free trade agreement be immediately stopped as the proposals are against the interests of farmers and workers.

They have demanded the suspension of all ongoing FTA negotiations and a comprehensive parliamentary and public review of all FTAs. The unions have also sought full transparency in trade negotiations and protection of India's agriculture, retail trade, workers, and rural economy from "corporate-driven" trade deals.

Citing reports that India is close to concluding an interim trade deal that may evolve into a FTA covering all sectors, the organisations urged the Centre to immediately suspend the negotiations to protect livelihoods, food sovereignty, and the national economy.

The letter said allowing imports of heavily subsidised U.S. produce would destroy domestic production in affected sectors.

CBSE Class 12 marks rise sharply after re-evaluation

The Board had faced criticism over evaluation discrepancies after implementing the on-screen marking for the exam; students reported issues such as blurred answer sheets, missing pages

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Several students who had applied for re-evaluation of their CBSE Class 12 answer scripts have reported a substantial increase in their scores which were released on Sunday.

The Board has faced criticism over evaluation discrepancies after implementing the on-screen marking (OSM) system in the academic year 2026-27. Students had reported issues such as blurred answer sheets, missing pages, missing maps or graphs, and answer scripts for a particular set of questions being assessed against the marking scheme of a different question set.

While more than 1.6 lakh candidates had applied for re-evaluation, at least 1.39 lakh of them got their results on Sunday.

A student from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh had previously received 71 marks in physics. "After re-evaluation, his score increased to 90. This was due to an increase in the marks in the theory paper from 41 to 60. The marks for the practical component remained the same," a family member of the student, who did not wish to be named, said. *The Hindu* accessed both the new and old scores of the student.

While more than 1.6 lakh candidates had applied for re-evaluation, at least 1.39 lakh of them got their results on Sunday. ANI

Change in school topper

Similarly, at least six students of a private school in West Bengal saw a significant revision in their scores in the history paper. "One of the students had scored 74 out of 100 in history and after the re-evaluation, it increased to 97.

Another student had scored 72 marks, and after re-evaluation, it became 87," said a teacher from the school. "Most students in West Bengal have already completed college admission processes, mostly on basis of old marks. After the CBSE re-evaluation results came in, our school topper has changed. We are still assessing the situation and also expecting students to get substantially higher marks in sociology," the teacher said.

A CSBE evaluator who examined the answer sheets using the OSM system told *The Hindu* that the Board had declared that the evaluation had to be done using the system just two weeks before the evaluation was to start. "It was a complete mess. Some answer scripts were not completely scanned and were rejected by evaluators. Teachers in far-flung areas have scanty knowledge of operating computers and they could have found it difficult to evaluate the answer scripts," the evaluator said, requesting anonymity.

A student in Odisha saw an increase of 12 marks in chemistry and five marks in English in the re-evaluation results, while another student in Delhi received an increase of five marks in the history paper.

The CBSE has not released official data on how many students who applied for re-evaluation have seen an increase in their scores.

Phased release

"The results of around 87% of candidates who have applied for Re-evaluation and/or Verification of Issues observed have been declared. The outcomes for the remaining candidates will also be released in phases and the entire process is expected to be completed soon," the CBSE stated in an official release.

CBSE frames new policy for students in West Asia

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Monday that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has framed a fresh policy for evaluating private candidates in West Asia whose results could not be declared due to the ongoing conflict in the region.

A Bench comprising Justices S.V.N. Bhatti and Vipul M. Pancholi was informed by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the CBSE, that a new policy had been formulated to address the concerns of students affected by the cancellation of examinations.

Mr. Mehta submitted that the policy, notified on Sunday, includes a separate assessment formula for private candidates appearing for the Board examinations. Under the scheme, marks in subjects for which examinations could not be conducted would be computed by assigning a 40% weightage to theory marks obtained in the Class 10 Board exam and a 60% weightage to those secured in the Class 12 Board exam.

Displaced Pandits converge at Kashmir temple in record numbers

Peerzada Ashiq
GANDERBAL

Buoyed by the improvement in the security situation, a record number of displaced Kashmiri Pandits converged at the Kheer Bhawani temple in central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Monday.

They were welcomed by local Muslims and regional parties, including the ruling National Conference (NC) and Opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The Pandits have pledged to return every year to continue the tradition.

Over 214 buses ferried the displaced Kashmiri Pandits to the temple over the past few days. Most devotees said the security situation had changed for the better: Kashmir was "free of fear" and "it was possible to travel even at night".

The Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society attended to over 10,000 devotees at its *langar* a day before the festival on Sunday. "A record number of devotees participated in this year's pilgrimage," said M.K. Yogi, general secretary of the society.

Sacred visit: Kashmiri Pandit devotees pray during a religious festival at the Kheer Bhawani temple on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

Special puja

A special puja was held at the tree lined temple on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtam. "It's Mata's birthday today. Tulmullah is her seat. She grants all wishes," said Beenu Zutshi, who migrated from Budgam to Jammu after militancy broke out in the Kashmir Valley in the 1990s.

For once many of the visiting Pandits were young and travelling to the Valley for the first time. "It's my first visit to Kashmir. I got to meet many relatives whom I have never met before. It felt like home. We are eager to return to Kashmir and settle here," said 17-year-old Anuja Kaul, who currently lives in Delhi.

The Pandits also visited temples at Anantnag, Kulgam and Kupwara, which were out-of-bounds during the militancy.

The upturn in the number of devotees came after the Pahalgam attack in April 2025 cast its shadow on the mela last year.

An NC legislator from Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, joined the devotees in reciting verses by local poets. Meanwhile, local Muslims, keeping with tradition, set up stalls of puja paraphernalia at Tulmulla in Ganderbal.

NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, while pressing for "the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits", said, "The annual mela is a symbol of Kashmir's age-old tradition of communal harmony and brotherhood. I pray for the restoration of coexistence and strengthening of social bonds among all the communities."

ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI for a scientific investigation

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Human skeletal remains excavated from the archaeological site of Rakhigarhi in Haryana have been formally handed over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), a national research institute under the Union Culture Ministry, for a detailed scientific investigation.

The transfer, carried out under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, is expected to significantly advance multidisciplinary research into one of the most important urban centres of the Indus-Saraswati Civilisation, B.V. Sharma, Director of AnSI, said.

Rakhigarhi, spread across approximately 550 hectares in Haryana, is widely recognised as the largest known settlement of the Harappan Civilisation. Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of continuous habitation, from the Early Harappan to the Mature Harappan periods.

Ancient remains: The skeleton of a woman, excavated in a trench on Mound 7 at Rakhigarhi in Haryana, in April 2022. FILE PHOTO

Mound 7 at the excavation site has been identified as a burial plot where 56 skeletons were recovered, including that of a woman, roughly 4,600 years old, which created a buzz in the fields of history, anthropology, genomics, and even linguistics.

DNA analysis of the skeleton revealed that the Rakhigarhi woman did not possess the steppe pastoral gene, fanning the debate on Aryan migration to India. The word "Aryan" has been interchangeably used for the steppe pastoralists, though to avoid racial connotations, many scholars now prefer to use the term Indo-Aryan.

Three complete human skeletons among those recovered from Mound 7, along with skeletal fragments recovered from other burials, have now been transferred to the AnSI's ancient human skeletal repository and laboratory in Kolkata for a detailed examination. The remaining skeletal materials obtained at these sites are also expected to be transferred in a few days, the Culture Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Researchers believe the remains present a rare opportunity to apply modern scientific techniques, including ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis, stable isotope studies, osteological assessments, palaeopathological investigations, and environmental reconstruction, the statement added.

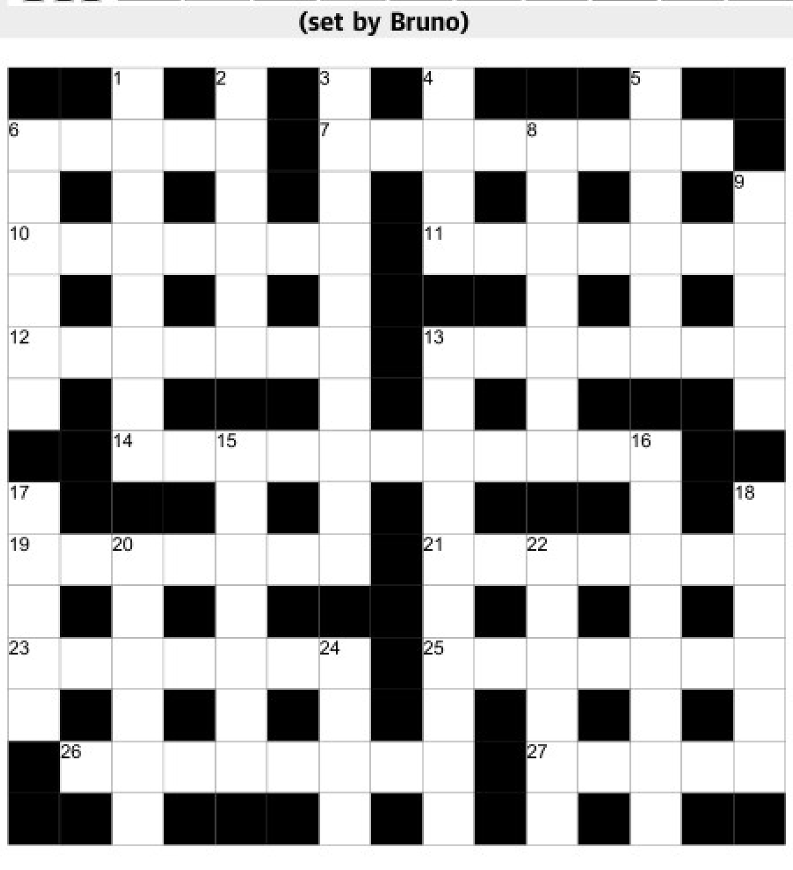
The research will be conducted in collaboration with leading scientific institutions, including the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, University College London, and the Banaras Hindu University.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14827

(set by Bruno)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

6. Hot girl turning reddish brown (5)
7. In general, no shopping centre accepts rupee, yen (8)
10. Yard in Burj building - clumsy fellow's death sentence could be pronounced there (4,3)
11. Walk gently to right and meet the Creator - get taken aback! (7)
12. Agree and support one being fired for offence (7)
13. Pedal furiously to reach a gallery finally - it doesn't come around often (4,3)
14. After party, bulk ice melted around front half of quad very fast (6-5)
19. Hot sauce is revolting and bland (7)
21. Beneficiary's story buried in gets a cable carrying energy close to home (7)
23. Swimming waterhole - a lake draining towards which place (7)
25. Setter's facing same-old deadlock (7)
26. King hiding in some old, rundown hut sheltering with gratitude (5,3)
27. Genetically modified organism fitted with independent unknown device (5)

DOWN

1. Radical infiltrating worker association along with journalist's not smooth (8)
2. Graduate gets little of meal, majority of liquor and grass (6)
3. New dune buggy to carry old, fat, & short (10)
4. Urge support when Portugal's run over by Dutch (4)
5. Federal organization banned English trouser style (6)
6. Terrible fellow chasing hot one with force (6)
8. Media, finally following American soldier who captured Chinese and another Asian (7)
9. Without hint of fuss, FDA banned transporting deathly chemical group (5)
13. Brief noise from duck in oil soup at sea, initially plaintive, disappearing, becoming chattering (10)
15. Youngster chasing referee's relatively large (7)
16. Big kitchen - cook sizing one end for rotisserie (4-4)
17. Opinions compete with science, basically (5)
18. Different man wrote translation while off work (6)
20. Look at the storm! (6)
22. Attack independent politician with gun sneakily (6)
24. Black animal going around American city (4)

SUDOKU

1	2			7			5	
5		3	2	9				
	8							
		7	9		4			8
		8				3		
2			8		7	4		
							3	
				5	1	9		7
	1			4			6	5

No.SS6920 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

P	L	A	I	C	E	■	E	P	I	S	O	D	E	S
U	■	L	■	H	■	■	■	E	■	U	■	I	■	T
B	A	M	B	O	O	■	P	R	O	P	O	S	E	R
S	■	I	■	W	■	■	■	A	■	A	■	G	■	A
■	F	R	E	D	D	I	E	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y
■	■	A	■	E	■	N	■	B	■	I	■	S	■	C
U	S	H	E	R	E	D	O	U	T	■	A	T	T	A
N	■	■	■	S	■	I	■	L	■	D	■	■	■	T
D	E	B	T	■	B	A	G	A	T	E	L	L	E	S
E	■	A	■	M	■	N	■	T	■	F	■	I	■	■
S	I	N	G	A	P	O	R	E	S	L	I	N	G	■
I	■	N	■	N	■	C	■	■	■	A	■	E	■	C
R	O	E	N	T	G	E	N	■	A	T	T	A	C	H
E	■	R	■	R	■	A	■	■	■	E	■	G	■	I
D	I	S	D	A	I	N	S	■	A	D	V	E	N	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	1	8	4	9	7	2	3
4	8	9	2	3	7	6	1	5
2	3	7	5	1	6	8	9	4
1	9	4	7	8	3	2	5	6
8	6	3	9	2	5	4	7	1
5	7	2	1	6	4	9	3	8
7	1	8	4	5	2	3	6	9
3	2	5	6	9	8	1	4	7
9	4	6	3	7	1	5	8	2

FAITH

Kulasekhara shows the way

Like other Azhwars, Kulasekhara Azhwar too had mystic experience of Perumal, said Damal Perundevi. In his work Perumal Tirumozhi, while singing the glory of the archa deity of Tirumala, he tells the deity Srinivasa that he seeks only one boon from Him. The verse is a pointer to devotees on how to reach Srinivasa, a fount of mercy. Kulasekhara prays that having been born as a human, in the event of a rebirth, he should be born as a river in Tirumala so that he could remain in His hills forever. When Srinivasa agrees, the poet, realising that riverbeds can go dry, asks to be reborn as a fish. Perumal points out that if riverbeds dry up, the fish will not survive.

The Azhwar seeks to be reborn as a champa flower and Srinivasa agrees. The saint devotee, realising that a wandering devotee could pluck the flower and travel away, he changes his mind again (a human trait) and wants to be born a priest. When Srinivasa patiently agrees to that, Kulasekhara backtracks, saying, a temple priest's tenure would end once he attained a certain age, preventing him from being in His service in the temple: therefore, such a birth is not an option for him. He then asks Srinivasa to make him the final step to the sanctum sanctorum of Srinivasa, from where he could gaze upon his idol round the clock, with none hindering his view of Perumal. Then he wonders if someone else would cast the step in gold and hinder his view! What does the saint really want? Kulasekhara only wants to be in the presence of Perumal always, knowing that he would take care of those who surrender to Him. The saint says "I leave the choice to You, but keep me in Tirumala in any form, in any birth."

INBRIEF

Ambuja Cements, U.K.'s Leilac to partner for Kutch project

Adani Group-owned Ambuja Cements on Monday announced it had signed an agreement with U.K.'s Leilac to collaborate on a low-carbon cement project in Gujarat's Kutch district. Ambuja Cements said the demonstration project would evaluate "the integration of Leilac's carbon capture and hybrid electric heating technology to support lower-emission cement production through greater use of renewable electricity and the capture of unavoidable process carbon dioxide". If successful, the company stated, the project would be scaled by seven to eight times to capture "more than one million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually".

Kharola returns to Air India as executive advisor

Pradeep Singh Kharola, who served as Air India's Chairman and Managing Director before the airline's privatisation, has returned to the carrier as executive advisor to the chairman with immediate effect. Mr. Kharola, a former Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and a veteran civil servant, will work closely with Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran and the airline's leadership team. Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said Mr. Kharola's experience would be critical as the airline prepares for a leadership transition. "With my tenure in its final months, his experience will be invaluable in ensuring a smooth leadership transition to a new CEO," Mr. Wilson said.

Global economic landscape remains fragile: RBI Bulletin

'Breakdown of Iran-U.S. peace deal may reignite material risks; Indian economy entered this turbulence with much better fundamentals'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Shock absorbers: Surge in international crude prices have partially been passed on to retail consumers. G.N. RAO

The uncertainties concerning the U.S.-Iran peace agreement could have impact on the outlook through international trade, cost pressures, capital flows and commodity prices, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials said in the June edition of the RBI Bulletin which was released on Monday.

"The global economic landscape remains fragile despite some respite gained through the interim U.S.-Iran peace agreement," they said in the State of Economy chapter.

"Any breakdown of the agreement may reignite material risks in terms of inflationary expectations, disrupted critical energy infrastructure, delayed investment spending, food security concerns, adverse financial stability outlook and structurally lower growth," they warned.

According to them, the Indian economy entered this turbulence with much better fundamentals relative to many other countries to sustain the shock.

"India maintained a consistently high growth, anchored inflation expectations, sustained fiscal consolidation, manageable current account balance and foreign exchange buffers over the previous few years, which adds to its strength vis-à-vis similar other events in the past," they emphasised.

An adverse south-west monsoon, if materialised, may weigh on the domestic growth-inflation outlook, they stated.

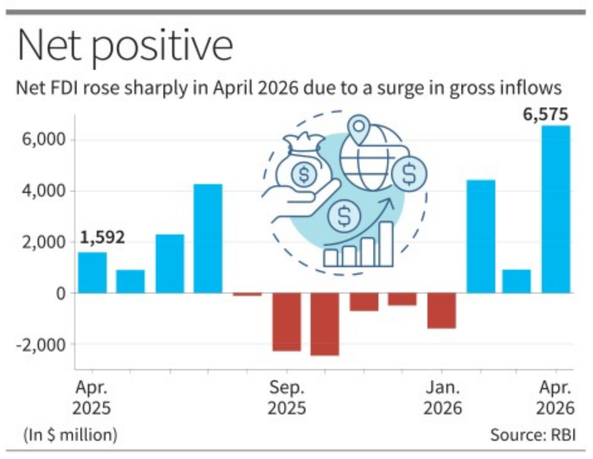
As an outcome of the West Asia conflict the CPI headline inflation inched up sequentially to 3.9% YoY in May 2026 from 3.5% in the preceding month driven by broad-based increases in all the three categories – food and beverages, fuel and core components.

"Rise in inflation of food and beverages was across classes/sub-classes, barring pulses. CPI fuel inflation also increased significantly over the previous month on account of rise in retail prices of petrol, diesel and CNG, the officials said.

Surge in international prices have partially been passed on to retail consumers through upward revisions in prices of petrol and diesel in four tranches in May with cumulative increases of around ₹7.5 per litre and ₹7.6 per litre, respectively.

Net FDI jumped to $6.6 bn in April, highest in nearly 5 years

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI



Net FDI rose to $6.6 billion in April 2026, its highest level in nearly five years, driven by a 65% surge in gross inflows, an analysis of official data shows.

In other words, the data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Monday shows that the total amount of direct investment that entered the country in April 2026 exceeded the amount leaving it by $6.6 billion. The corresponding figure in March 2026 was $917 million. April's net FDI figure was the highest since May 2021.

The surge in gross inflows even overshadowed the fact that outward FDI by Indian companies also rose to a historic high in April 2026.

Nevertheless, the data for April marks a significant turnaround from just a few months ago, since net FDI had been negative for six consecutive months up to February 2026.

Gross FDI in April 2026, or the total amount of direct investment that entered the country that month, surged to $15.3 billion – the highest since at least March 2021, the earliest month for which data is easily available.

This figure was 65% higher than in April last year, and 131% higher than in March 2026.

To further put this figure into context, the gross FDI inflows in the single month of April 2026 was more than 16% of the amount that came in the entire financial year 2025-26.

"Source wise, more than 75% of the FDI flows came from Japan, Singapore and Mauritius," the RBI said in its monthly bulletin report.

Slower outflow growth

Gross outflows rose, too, but at a significantly slower pace, to $8.7 billion in April 2026 from $7.7 billion in April last year – a growth of 13.7%. Within this, outward FDI by Indian companies rose nearly 42% in April 2026 to $4.8 billion, the highest level since at least March 2021.

"As regards outward FDI, around 80% of the flows were directed to the U.S. and the Cayman Islands," the RBI said.

U.S. waives sanctions on Iranian oil, ships

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

The waiver covers financial transactions on ship operations. FILE

With the peace process moving ahead after an interruption, the U.S. Treasury Department has issued a waiver that waives all sanctions for a period of 60 days ending August 21 related to the production, sale, delivery and offloading of Iranian crude oil as well as petroleum products. The waiver includes transactions involving vessels that were earlier sanctioned, as per as Treasury Department notification.

Following the announcement, Brent price plunged 2% to 3% and was trading at around $77. The waiver covers financial transactions related to ship operations such as bunkering, piloting and so on.

The waiver permits the import of Iranian crude, petroleum and petrochemical products to the U.S. and allows payments to be made if they are in U.S. dollar-denominated funds.

Prashant Vashisht, Senior Vice President, and Co-Group Head Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA Ltd., commented on why this could lead to a spurt in trade in Iranian crude including by India.

"Iranian crude was historically available with a credit period of 60-90 days as against 30 days of other crude producers which was beneficial for refiners due to lower working capital requirements besides which geographical proximity to India would benefit Indian refiners."

Alan Greenspan, U.S. Fed 'maestro', passes away at 100

Reuters

Alan Greenspan

Alan Greenspan, hailed as the greatest Federal Reserve chairman when he retired in 2006 but derided for a severe financial crisis that followed barely 2 years later, died on Monday aged 100, his wife said.

Greenspan, who exerted a powerful influence on the U.S.economy during his tenure at the helm of the Fed from August 1987 to January 2006, died at his home from complications of Parkinson's Disease, Andrea Mitchell said in a statement.

"He was a giant of a man who helped shape the U.S. economy for decades under presidents of both parties, but was always honest in acknowledging his mistakes," Ms. Mitchell said.

"He will be remembered for his brilliance and his kindness. Being his life partner was the joy of my life," she added.

Mr. Greenspan oversaw the second-longest economic expansion in U.S. history, an uninterrupted decade of growth from March 1991 to March 2001. His decision to let economy run – despite pressure to raise interest rates against an inflation threat that never materialised – helped foster years of U.S. prosperity and earned him rock star status as an economic "maestro." The era was marked by his prescient judgment that a productivity surge in the mid-1990s would keep inflation contained.

Cred founder Kunal Shah named WhatsApp chief

Message fwd globally: WhatsApp parent Meta will invest $900 million (about ₹8,550 crore) in Cred as part of hiring Cred founder Kunal Shah. THE HINDU

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

WhatsApp will be headed by Cred founder Kunal Shah, starting as early as this week, the messaging platform announced, marking elevation of the serial fintech entrepreneur to the leadership of the world's largest messaging platform.

WhatsApp parent Meta, which also owns Instagram and Facebook, will invest $900 million (about ₹8,550 crore) in Cred as a part of this hire, enabling Cred to move forward with ESOP buybacks. As Cred's CEO, a post to be held on an interim basis by senior executive Miten Sampat, Mr. Shah oversaw the service's growth to a user base that covered over a third of India's credit card bill payments, targeting the most affluent Indians. "Meta's $900M minority investment is a booster in our plans to build an enduring institution with an eventual public listing," Mr. Sampat said on X.

"Meta will be a passive financial investor with no-access to customer data." While WhatsApp has more than three billion users globally, a plurality in India, the firm is yet to seriously monetise access. That's where Mr. Shah comes in. In a statement, he indicated his role would be to move the platform to that stage."While [the app has] come very far, the delta between WhatsApp today and its full potential is massive," he said.

Will Cathcart, who led WhatsApp for seven years and taken vocal positions on app's commitment to end-to-end encryption and held spyware makers who target the application accountable, will stay at Meta in other roles, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said.

Before founding Cred, Mr. Shah founded startups such as PaisaBack, focused on cashbacks in 2009 and FreeCharge, a mobile wallet acquired by Snapdeal in 2015. He was an angel investor on the back of the ballooning valuations of his past ventures and had taken stakes in firms across the fintech ecosystem like Razorpay.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHAIRIBHANDAN & DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT, KARANJIA, AT/PO : KARANJIA, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ-757037
Tel : 06796-296144, e-mail - cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com
"e" Procurement Notice No.09/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27 - Bid Identification No. 09/ CCEKDIP of 2026-27

1.	Nature of the Work	:	Civil Work
2.	Number of Works	:	02 (Two) Nos of Individual Work
3.	Approximate amount put to tender	:	Rs.470.88 Lakh to Rs.555.31 Lakh
4.	Period of Completion	:	9 (Nine) Calendar Months including rainy season
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'A' Class Contractor
6.	Date & time of Availability of Bid document in the portal	:	Dt.29.06.2026 at 10 AM to 13.07.2026 up to 5.30 PM
7.	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	:	Dt.09.07.2026 up to 1.00 PM
8.	Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the Portal	:	Dt.13.07.2026 up to 5.30 PM
9.	Date, time & place of opening of Technical Bid/s (Cover-I)	:	Dt.14.07.2026 at 10.30 AM in O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
10.	Date, time & place of opening of Financial Bid/s (Cover-II)	:	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical BID
11.	Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	:	Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, AT/PO-Karanjia, PS-Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj, PIN-757037

*Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site : www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website
Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
32001/432/2627 OIPR-32001/32337/1/26-27/0008

राष्ट्रीय सिद्धा संस्थान / NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SIDDHA
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ताम्बरम सनटोरियम / Tambaram Sanatorium चेन्नई / Chennai - 600 047.
फ़ोन / Tele : 044-22411611 ईमेल / Email: director.nis-tn@gov.in
वेब / Website: https://nischennai.org

मिसिल संख्या / F.No.NIS/1-30/Recruitment-Regular/2025 तारीख / Date : 22.06.2026

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO: 05/2026

Applications in the prescribed format are invited for filling up the post of Senior Research Officer (Stat) in National Institute of Siddha, **on Deputation or Direct Recruitment basis**

GROUP 'A' POST:

S. No.	Name of the Post	No.of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Category
1.	**Senior Research Officer (Stat)**	01	Deputation or Direct Recruitment	UR

Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix: Level 11 [Pre-revised Scale of Pay : PB - III (Rs. 15600 - 39100) with GP Rs. 6600/-].

The cost of application is Rs.750/-. Application form can be downloaded from the Institute website: **https://nischennai.org**. The application form should be **neatly typed / Handwritten in single side** in A4 size paper providing all the details. The filled up application along with application fee for Rs.750/- by way of a DD drawn in favour of "Director, National Institute of Siddha" payable at Chennai together with self attested photocopies of certificates / testimonials should be sent to "The Director, National Institute of Siddha, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai-600 047" within 45 days from the date of notification in the Employment News.

Other details regarding educational qualification, experience, age, general conditions, etc., are available in the Institute website : **https://nischennai.org.**

Director

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NOMINATIONS OPEN NOW

Other categories include:
• Digital Transformation • Financial Transformation
• Social Transformation • Young Changemaker

BUNIA

Confirmed Ebola cases in Congo top 1,000 with 254 deaths: officials

AP

Confirmed cases in the Ebola outbreak in Congo reached 1,003, including 254 deaths, officials said, as tracing those who had been in contact with patients remains a challenge. A total of 100 people have recovered in the outbreak concentrated in the Ituri province since it was declared on May 15, health officials said on Sunday. AP

RAMALLAH

Israeli soldiers shoot dead two Palestinian teens in West Bank

REUTERS

Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinian teenagers in the occupied West Bank on Monday, Palestinian officials said, while the Israeli military said the two had attacked a nearby Jewish settlement with firebombs and burning tyres. Palestinian officials also accused the Israeli forces of withholding the bodies. REUTERS

BOGOTA

Trump ally defeats leftist rival in Colombian Presidential election

AFP

An U.S.-backed lawyer won Colombia's presidential run-off on Sunday, swinging the country hard right and sparking protests. Abelardo de la Espriella (pictured on the right) held 49.66% vote against leftist Senator Ivan Cepeda's 48.70%. U.S. President Donald Trump cheered the result, exclaiming "He Won, BIG!" AP

TACLOBAN

Three killed, seven wounded in school shooting in the Philippines

AFP

Two students opened fire on Monday inside a school in the central Philippines, a rare campus shooting that killed three teens and wounded seven others, police said. The alleged shooters, aged 15 and 14, were in custody after firing "randomly" in San Jose National High School in Leyte province's Tacloban City, police said. AFP

12 Indians among 13 killed in explosion at Qatar gas plant

Over 60 injured in the fire caused by a blast at the Barzan facility in Ras Laffan; authorities say the explosion was 'an accident, not sabotage or hostile act'; Indian Embassy issues helpline numbers

Press Trust of India
DOHA/DUBAI

A huge blast at a gas hub killed 13 people, including 12 Indians, and injured 66 others in the Ras Laffan industrial zone in Qatar, officials said on Monday.

"Qatari authorities have confirmed that 12 Indian nationals have unfortunately passed away in the Ras Laffan incident yesterday night," the Indian Embassy in Doha said in a post on X.

Earlier, during a press briefing on Monday, the country's Energy Minister Saad al-Kaabi confirmed that 13 people of Indian and Pakistani origins have died in the incident. He reported that 66 people of various nationalities were injured, all of whom are in a stable condition and receiving medical treatment.

Incident zone: The blast occurred during start-up of operations at Ras Laffan Industrial City, officials said. FILE PHOTO

Authorities are investigating the cause of the explosion, which they said was "an accident and not sabotage or hostile in nature", despite earlier Iranian attacks targeting energy facilities in the Gulf during the war in West Asia. The Interior Ministry had said a "technical incident" caused the explosion late on Sunday.

Qatar's state-owned energy company, QatarEnergy, said the blast erupted "during the start-up of operations at Ras Laffan Industrial City, which resulted in an explosion and fire at Barzan local gas supply facility".

Mr. Kaabi explained Barzan's production had been stopped since December 2025 for maintenance and was first restarted again two days prior to the explosion. According to QatarEnergy, the facility could provide 1.4 billion standard cubic feet of sales gas per day.

The Embassy of India in Doha said it is in constant touch with Qatari authorities and will render all help to the families of those who have lost their lives or have been injured.

The Embassy issued the following helpline numbers: +974-55647502 or +975-55384683 and email: cons.doha@mea.gov.in

(With inputs from AFP)

Keir Starmer, who won a landslide in 2024, leaves the stage after setbacks

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sriram Lakshman

Keir Starmer

Keir Starmer announced his resignation on Monday morning, just under two years after leading Labour in a landslide victory in July 2024. This happened despite the fact that the U.K. saw some of its important economic parameters improving in the last two years. It had the strongest economic growth in Q1 2026 relative to its G7 peers and inflation had been falling to the Bank of England's target level of 2%, for instance. The waitlists for medical appointments in the U.K.'s healthcare system had also fallen. Net immigration numbers had also declined, though some of this could reasonably be attributed to policies of the Conservative government of Rishi Sunak.

However, the above was not enough to keep Mr. Starmer in No. 10 Downing Street until the end of this Parliament. His popularity within the Labour Party, his historically low performance in opinion polls, poor judgment calls in political appointments, recent electoral losses for the Labour and fears around the growth in Reform and other hard right parties were among the reasons he was compelled to resign. His political fate was all but sealed when former Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham won a seat in Westminster (the U.K.'s Parliament) last week, after winning a by-election.

Labour's infighting

The factionalism within Labour became evident within a year of Mr. Starmer becoming Prime Minister. The seeds of this were sown earlier when Mr. Starmer moved himself and the Labour party towards the centre. He suspended former left-wing leader Jeremy Corbyn as part of a move to distance the party from a perception of anti-Semitism. This does not explain the entire picture either. The domestic and global environment in which the Labour party operated has been fluctuating these past two years, and this has resulted in MPs coalescing around multiple centres of gravity as far as policy is concerned.

With the Conservatives being decimated in the 2024 elections, the hard right Reform U.K. party and now, Restore Britain, which is even further right of Reform, have been gaining in strength. All of this has created pressure on Labour from both the right and the left (such as the Greens).

More than 120 of the 403 Labour MPs in the House of Commons revolted against proposed welfare cuts, forcing Mr. Starmer to walk these back significantly in June 2025. There was further backlash from within the party to changes in immigration policy announced in November 2025, fundamentally changing the model of immigration to the U.K., restricting or prolonging most pathways to permanent residence. Mr. Starmer and his allies have repeatedly argued that certain policies are necessary to keep Reform at bay.

Mr. Starmer's net favourability ratings have been deep in negative territory, where he has competed with Liz Truss, who served as U.K. PM for just 49 days. His recent net numbers have been in the -40 to -45 range. British commentators have tried – and struggled – to explain the cause for the Prime Minister's unpopularity, proffering various reasons for this phenomenon. Explanations have included Mr. Starmer being on the receiving end of public frustration and impatience for change, to disillusionment from the left flank of Labour's traditional vote base to his judgment calls on appointments.

He lost friends within his party and strengthened critics with evidence emerging in recent months of his poor judgment calls over the appointment of Peter Mandelson as Britain's U.S. Ambassador, who was sacked from his post in September 2025 over his links to (now deceased) paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. A series of departures from the government around this issue further weakened Mr. Starmer.

Poor poll performance

Recent election results where Labour did not fare well have compounded fears of Labour MPs that the party may squander away its 2024 election victory and lose in 2029. It lost a seat to the Greens in a by-election in Greater Manchester.

Labour's National Executive Committee and Mr. Starmer were criticised for not allowing Mr. Burnham, seen even then as a contender for Mr. Starmer's post, from contesting this election. A decision on Mr. Starmer's leadership was postponed until the May 2026 subnational elections. However, in May, Labour was handed a major defeat in local elections in England and did not do well in the Assembly elections in Wales and Scotland. Reform picked up 1,452 council seats in England, while Labour lost 1,498 seats and control of Welsh politics after more than a century. This was a severe blow for Mr. Starmer's leadership, with several MPs, including Wes Streeting, the U.K. Health Secretary and contender for the Prime Minister's job, quitting the government.

The final blow to Mr. Starmer's premiership came last week, when Mr. Burnham won the Mackerfield parliamentary by-election, winning 55% of the vote, with Reform's Rob Kenyon just getting 35% of the vote. Just after the results came in on June 19, Mr. Starmer said he would fight a contest for his position if he was challenged. The mood changed over the weekend when Mr. Starmer retreated to his official country home and held discussions with Cabinet members. Several Ministers reportedly urged him to step down and put forth an orderly timetable for a transition.

China slaps sanctions on 10 U.S. tech firms

Associated Press
BEIJING

China on Monday announced sanctions on 10 American military-related companies in response to a recent U.S. move that bars some leading Chinese tech companies from defence contracts.

The Commerce Ministry said that Chinese companies would be blocked from exporting "dual-use" items to the firms, which include military drone makers and some involved in rare earth mining. Dual use refers to goods that can have military as well as non-military applications.

The 10 companies are AVEOX, Red Cat Holdings and Teal Drones, IMSAR, Jaia Robotics, Ball Aerospace & Technologies, Oshkosh Defense, L3Harris Maritime Services, MP Materials and USA Rare Earth.

Separately, the Finance Ministry said that government entities would be prohibited from buying products from 46 American companies including Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and General Dynamics.

Russian drone strikes over Ukraine kill five

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russian drones killed five people early on Monday, including a sailor in the Black Sea and a family of three in Sumy, Ukrainian officials said.

"A drone strike set fire to a vessel sailing under the flag of Panama. A crew member was killed – a citizen of Egypt," Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Oleksii Kuleba said.

A separate Russian drone strike killed a family of three in the Sumy region – a 13-year-old boy, his father, and grandmother, the region's prosecution service said.

A Russian drone set a home ablaze in Zaporizhzhia, killing a woman, the region's governor said.

In Russia, aviation authorities briefly closed Moscow's four airports after air defences intercepted a flurry of Ukrainian drones.

Moscow-installed authorities in the Crimean peninsula suspended fuel sales on Sunday, after a string of Ukrainian attacks on oil refineries in Russia.

Sport

Senior pro Kapp's class makes the difference at the crunch

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MANCHESTER

Marizanne Kapp belongs to that rare species in cricket. The genuine all-rounder. Two players in one.

If she doesn't get you with the ball, she will with the bat. On certain days, she will cause enough damage with the ball, and then more with the bat.

Sunday was such a day. At the receiving end of it was India. And it was potentially the most important match of Group A in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

Kapp disrupted India's flying start by clean bowling its best batter Smriti Mandhana in just the third over.

The South Africans then kept the rest of the Indian strokemakers in check. The Proteas wobbled at the start in their chase of 159, thanks to another superb spell of bowling from young spinner Shree Charani.

Vital strike: Kapp castles the in-form Smriti to provide the first breakthrough. GETTY IMAGES

However, Kapp, coming in at No. 4, guided her side to a crucial win at Old Trafford with an unbeaten 81 off just 45 balls.

"This is probably the best T20 innings that I have played, especially against the quality Indian attack on this specific wicket, that probably suited them a bit more," she said.

"But we know it is always a fight against India. Doing well against India feels good."

The 36-year-old wasn't, however, feeling well before the match. "I was actually a little bit ill in the warm-up," she said.

"I just didn't feel well at all. I went into the change room and even cried a bit. It was just a wonderful game of cricket for us."

Kapp said her third-wicket stand of 97 with Tazmin Brits, who was playing her first game of the edition, was important.

"I think the biggest thing at that stage was just getting a bit of a partnership," she said.

"It is sometimes so difficult batting those periods of a T20 game because you almost can't go too hard, as you can't afford to lose another wicket," she said.

About expressing her emotions on the ground, Kapp said: "People always say I am so angry when I play cricket. Show me a bowler who is going to smile when somebody hits a six... I actually get annoyed at bowlers smiling after getting smashed for sixes and fours, or bowling wides".

Today's Matches

New Zealand vs Scotland	Sri Lanka vs Ireland	Australia vs Pakistan
Bristol, 3 p.m. IST	Bristol, 7 p.m. IST	Leeds, 11 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
First Meeting	Played: 5	Played: 16
	Sri Lanka 4 · Ireland 1	Australia 14 · Pakistan 0 · NR 2

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Clark hangs on to regain US Open crown

GOLF

Agence France-Presse
SOUTHAMPTON

Wyndham Clark captured his second US Open title after a back-nine battle on Sunday, holding off Sam Burns for a wire-to-wire triumph at blustery Shinnecock.

Clark, whose other Major crown came in 2023, fired a three-over 73 to finish on four-under 276 and defeat fellow American Burns by one stroke.

Clark began the day with a six-shot lead, saw it shrink to a single stroke as he struggled early, then grinded through the back nine.

He did not secure victory until a tap-in par at the last hole. Clark captured the record top prize of $4.5 million from a $22.5 million purse.

Clark. AFP

Top scores: 276: Wyndham Clark 64-69-70-73; **277:** Sam Burns 71-68-71-67; **279:** Tom Kim 70-67-72-70; **280:** Scottie Scheffler 72-68-69-71, JT Poston 71-71-71-67, Keith Mitchell 70-70-70-70.

IN A TOUGH SPOT

10-man Belgium frustrated by Iran, faces group-stage elimination

AP

Belgium was held to a goalless draw by Iran in a World Cup game in Los Angeles on Sunday that saw the Red Devils reduced to 10 men and facing the possibility of group-stage exit. Iran's Mehdi Taremi had the ball in the net from a free-kick that was overturned for offside by VAR, while Nathan Ngoy was sent off after the break.

OPTIMISTIC

Cape Verde coach Bubista targeting knockout rounds

AP

We're here to to try and achieve a new dream, which is to qualify for the second round and I think it's legitimate to think that way. We have the utmost respect for all of our opponents...but we're now at a point of saying yes, we will definitely fight for qualification — Cape Verde coach Bubista.

UNFORTUNATE

Injured Germany defender Schlotterbeck out of World Cup

GETTY IMAGES

Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck has been ruled out of the World Cup with a left ankle injury sustained during Saturday's 2-1 win over Ivory Coast. "We will sorely miss Schlotti on the field as an outstanding defender, especially his ability to build up play from the back," head coach Julian Nagelsmann said.

INFLUENTIAL

'Neymar has a marvellous history with Brazil and can still help us'

AFP

Brazil midfielder Lucas Paqueta waxed eloquent about Neymar, who is in line to make an appearance against Scotland after recovering from an injury. "Neymar is a very important player for the national team. He has a marvellous history with us and can still help us a lot," Paqueta said of the 34-year-old playmaker.

Messi sets record, Argentina in knockouts

The talisman goes past Klose for the most number of goals in the showpiece after missing an early penalty; his brace consigns Austria to a 0-2 defeat

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
DALLAS

18 and counting... Messi etched his name in the record books with a perfectly placed strike in the first half and followed it up with one in injury time. REUTERS & GETTY IMAGES

The takeover had begun long before kick-off. The previous evening, thousands had gathered at the Klyde Warren Park for the traditional Argentine Banderazo, a fan rally named after the Spanish word for flag, *bandera*. They draped downtown Dallas in blue and white and filled the Texas air with songs carried across generations. For one weekend, it looked like Buenos Aires had travelled north, settling briefly among the glass towers and endless freeways of Dallas.

Twenty-four hours later, Argentina repaid the devotion with a 2-0 victory over Austria, a result that secured its place in the knockouts.

The songs had grown louder as the crowd poured into the AT&T Stadium, and five minutes into the game, the sense of inevitability appeared to be justified.

Argentina won a penalty after a lengthy VAR review determined that Lautaro Martinez was brought down inside the box. But to the disbelief of the Messi faithful congregated here, the Argentina captain dragged his effort wide.

The rare ignominy appeared to cast a brief shadow over the South Americans, and Austria, sensing an opportunity, tried to turn possession into pressure. Perhaps, for the first time in this edition, the world champion looked ill at ease, its rhythm disrupted and composure tested by an opponent unwilling to be overawed.

Messi almost conjured a moment of magic in the 19th minute. Twisting his way into the penalty area, he discovered just enough space for a shot, but Alexander Schlager was alert to the danger and smothered the effort.

The goal that finally soothed the Argentine nerves arrived in the 38th minute. Thiago Almada cleverly stepped over a diagonal pass from Facundo Medina, allowing it to run into Messi's path. Arriving centrally, the captain opened his body and guided a precise finish beyond the goalkeeper. And, just like that, he was the holder of most number of goals in the showpiece, going past German Miroslav Klose.

A free-kick whipped in from the left by Marcel Sabitzer after the break provided Austria with its closest opportunity to claw back. But Emiliano Martinez reacted sharply to block its path.

Argentina had chances to extend its lead, but the finishing remained uncharacteristically wasteful from Lionel Scaloni's side. Yet as the game drifted into stoppage time, *La Albiceleste* found the reward its persistence deserved. As Austria failed to clear its lines inside a crowded penalty box, it was Messi, who reacted quickest, hammering home from close range.

SHORT PASSES

Gutsy Cape Verde holds Uruguay

MIAMI: World Cup debutant Cape Verde scored a second-half equaliser to salvage a 2-2 draw against Uruguay on Sunday, backing up its shock opening stalemate with Spain. Cape Verde took a surprise 21st-minute lead as Kevin Pina scored its first World Cup goal from a free-kick, only for Uruguay to strike twice shortly before half-time through Maximiliano Araujo and Agustin Canobbio. But 40-year-old Uruguay goalkeeper Fernando Muslera's mistake allowed Helio Varela to grab Cape Verde's second just after the hour mark.
Cape Verde boosted its hopes of reaching the knockout phase with a second point in Group H.

Egypt gets first World Cup win

VANCOUVER: Egypt earned its first World Cup win by beating New Zealand 3-1, putting it on track to reach the knockout round for the first time. The win puts Egypt top of Group G on four points and needing just a draw against Iran to move into the last 32.

Wednesday's matches

GROUP L
- England vs. Ghana, 1.30 a.m.
- Panama vs. Croatia, 4.30 a.m.

GROUP K
- Colombia vs. DR Congo, 7.30 a.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

Grabbing the chance: Varela cashes in on Muslera's blunder. AFP

Stat Attack

1 Egypt has won its first match at the World Cup at the ninth time of asking

1 Cape Verde is the first team to score its maiden World Cup goal off a direct free-kick

2 Yamal is the second teenager (18 or below) to open the scoring in a World Cup game after a 17-year-old Pele in 1958 (Brazil vs. Wales)

2 **Pina's** opener for Cape Verde is the second goal off a direct free-kick at the global showpiece this year. In the 2022 edition, there were two such strikes in 64 matches overall

3 Oyarzabal is the second player in the last 60 years (after Hungary's Fazekas vs. El Salvador, 1982) to register three goal contributions in the opening 25 minutes of a World Cup game

3 Salah has scored the most goals for Egypt at the football extravaganza, breaking the tie with Fawzi

40 Muslera (40y 5d) and Vozinha (40y 18d) are the first pair of goalkeepers above 40 to start in the same World Cup match

56 Araujo became the first Uruguayan in 56 years to net a goal and provide an assist in a World Cup game (after Mujica vs. Israel, 1970)

68 Salah has found the target 68 times for Egypt, one short of the country's all-time record held by Hossam Hassan, the current national team coach

406 It has been 406 minutes since a Belgian scored at the mega event (after Batshuayi's goal against Canada in 2022)

163 Lukaku got the fastest yellow card (163 seconds) for Belgium in the World Cup, and the quickest since 2018 (Mexico's Gallardo, 12 seconds vs. Sweden)

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Oyarzabal's quiet menace fuels Spain

Ayon Sengupta
ATLANTA

Football, like life, has a habit of changing fortunes quickly.

Less than a week ago, Mikel Oyarzabal found himself attached to an unwanted statistic after Spain's goalless draw against Cape Verde. For nearly 30 minutes, the striker went without touching the ball, a reflection of an afternoon when little seemed to work for one of the tournament favourites.

Six days later, Oyarzabal walked off the same pitch with two World Cup goals and an assist in Spain's 4-0 victory over Saudi Arabia.

The turnaround was fitting for a player who has spent much of his career being quietly effective rather than loudly celebrated.

Unlike many of Spain's stars, Oyarzabal did not emerge from the academies of Real Madrid or Barcelona. The 29-year-old grew up in the industrial Basque town of Eibar, where former teachers remember him as a respectful, hardworking and mature child who never sought attention despite being the best footballer in the schoolyard.

Oyarzabal. GETTY IMAGES

He joined Real Sociedad as a teenager and has remained there ever since, becoming captain and a symbol of a club that continues to challenge Spain's giants despite operating with a fraction of their resources.

His value to the national team, filled with stars, extends well beyond the goals he scores. The Basque forward has 27 goals in 55 appearances for Spain.

"People who know about football value Mikel greatly," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said after the win.

"The impact he has on the team is massive and is probably bigger than any other. "

The 29-year-old has now been directly involved in 21 goals – 14 goals and seven assists – in his last 13 games for Spain. He is not a striker who constantly demands possession. Instead, Oyarzabal occupies defenders, creates space, leads the press and often makes the runs that allow others to shine. Yet, when the moment arrives, he is usually in the right place.

"He is a footballer who can make history," De la Fuente added.

He has already played his part in a few historic moments. He scored in the 2019-20 and 2025-26 Copa del Rey finals as Real Sociedad lifted the trophy, and he also struck the winner against England in the Euro 2024 final in Berlin.

After yet another match-winning performance, Oyarzabal was happy to have reignited Spain's World Cup quest. "I'm happy to have scored, to have helped the team. One way or another, I'm always trying to do what's best for the team. When you don't do things well, when things don't go your way, you criticise yourself, you look internally to try to improve," he said.

Against Cape Verde, Oyarzabal had become the subject of an awkward statistic. Against Saudi Arabia, he has reminded everyone why Spain and De la Fuente keep selecting him.

THE RESULTS

Group G: Belgium 0 drew with Iran 0; New Zealand 1 (Surman 15) lost to Egypt 3 (Zico 58, Salah 67, Trezeguet 82)
Group H: Uruguay 2 (Araujo 44, Canobbio 45+6) drew with Cape Verde 2 (Pina 21, Varela 61).
Group J: Argentina 2 (Messi 38 & 90+5) bt Austria 0.

Root— a slow-burn champion often revealing how Tests are the real deal

CRICKET

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

On a distant March day in Ahmedabad, the cricketing world gazed in awe. It was 1987 and Sunil Gavaskar late-cut Pakistani spinner Ijaz Fakih at the Motera, a venue that has now become the gigantic Narendra Modi Stadium. With that shot, Gavaskar became the first batter to reach 10,000 runs in Tests.

It was a statistic that was deemed impossible to scale. But over the years, many have traipsed past that mark, starting with Allan Border. It is a club that now has 15 members. Leading the pack is Sachin Tendulkar at 15,921, and the next man is Joe Root, who went past 14,000 runs during the recent second Test that England lost to New Zealand at the Oval. Currently, Root has amassed 14,075.

Often clubbed with Virat Kohli, Steve Smith and Kane Williamson as the decisive batters of the current generation, Root found his own groove. Kohli only plays ODIs these days while Williamson has just retired, and that leaves Root and his Ashes rival Smith as the current great batters in Test whites. The Aussie, with a yield of 10,763, remains far behind while Root, after 35 summers, has Tendulkar's mountain to chase.

In the pantheon of great England Test batters, Root has surged ahead with a relentless quest for runs

In the pantheon of great England Test batters featuring Geoffrey Boycott, Graham Gooch, David Gower, Alastair Cook and Kevin Pietersen, Root has surged ahead with a relentless quest for runs. Having made his debut against India at Nagpur in 2012, he has been England's constant in cricket's longest format, more so after spearhead James Anderson retired.

Just like Williamson, Root seems unobtrusive at the crease. He goes about his game with a quiet determination and the runs are picked at will. There is an air of Yorkshire resilience about him, much like Boycott, and he even got an Ashes hundred finally in Australia.

To last this long, dally with captaincy, survive multiple Ashes battles, and get through the microscopic scrutiny from an unflinching media, is never easy. Root has done that while retaining a schoolboy's demeanour and a half-smile.

The whispers about him perhaps going past Tendulkar have gained volume. It would depend on Root retaining form, remaining fit and having the drive to extend his career. In a cricketing universe swaying to the transient pleasures of T20s, Root has been a slow-burn champion, often revealing how Tests are the real deal. 14,000 is done, more peaks await.

Prolific: Root is a hallmark of consistency. GETTY IMAGES

INBRIEF

Vondrousova gets ban for refusing anti-doping test

Former Wimbledon women's champion Marketa Vondrousova has been handed a four-year suspension for refusing an anti-doping test in December, the ITIA said on Monday.

Vinayaka FC registers big victory over Bangalore Boys

Vinayaka FC thrashed Bangalore Boys 4-1 in the BDFA C-division football league in Bengaluru on Monday.

The results: Vinayaka bt Bangalore Boys 4-1; Excelsiors bt Bagalkunte 2-0; Active Union drew with La Masia 1-1; Sunesa bt Postal Dept 2-1; Bangalore Mars bt Jupiter 3-0.

KSCA under-19 women's selection on Friday

Trials will be held on June 26 at the KSCA B Ground (8:30 a.m.) to pick teams for the u-19 women's selection matches in Bengaluru in July. Players born on or after Sept 1, 2007, are eligible. Trials are open only to Bengaluru zone players.

Indian spikers post second successive win in AVC Cup

India beat Kazakhstan 25-16, 25-21, 21-15 for its second straight win in the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 8.30 a.m. 10.30 p.m. 1.30 & 4.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3, 7 & 11 p.m.

Aneeshwar guides the Tigers home

The skipper smashes an unbeaten 60 off 41 balls as the Hubli team chases down the target with 15 balls to spare; Taha chips in with a fifty

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau

Captain Aneeshwar Gautam's composed unbeaten 60 took Hubli Tigers to a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over defending champion Mysore Warriors in the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 at the Srikantadatta Narasimha Raja Wadiyar Ground in Mysuru on Monday.

Chasing a modest target of 162, Tigers romped home with 15 balls to spare.

The chase got off to a shaky start when Preethesh Ingle was dismissed off just the second ball of the innings, caught by Lavish Kaushal without a run on board.

However, Mohammad Taha (57, 38b, 5x4, 3x6) and Mayank Agarwal (19, 11b, 3x4) steadied the innings. Aneeshwar, then, took control, finishing unbeaten on 60 off 41 deliveries (2x4, 4x6).

Earlier, Mysuru Warriors failed to capitalise after making a promising start. L.R. Chethan (18), S.U. Karthik (35), Ritesh Bhatkal (46) and K.P. Karthikeya (27) gave the innings momentum, but none converted their starts into a substantial score.

Having reached 99 for two in the 11th over, Warriors suffered a collapse, losing its remaining eight wickets for just 62 runs.

Leading from the front: Aneeshwar's knock was laced with two fours and four sixes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The scores:
Mysore Warriors 161 in 19.2 overs (Ritesh Bhatkal 46, S.U. Karthik 35) lost to Hubli Tigers 162/3 in 17.3 overs (Aneeshwar Gautam 60 n.o., Mohammad Taha 57). Gulbarga Mystics 177 in 19.5 overs (Manish Pandey 70) lost to Coastal Kings Mangaluru 181/2 in 16.3 overs (Nikin Jose 100 n.o., Karun Nair 56).

Serena handed Wimbledon wildcard

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Serena Williams, who made a competitive comeback recently, has been awarded a singles wildcard for the Wimbledon .

The organisers released the initial list, with the 44-year-old Serena, a seven-time champ at the All England Club, one of eight players handed a place in the women's singles event. The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion has not played a singles match since the 2022 US Open. "@serenawilliams will compete in the 2026 ladies' singles at #Wimbledon as a wild card," read a social-media post.

Chiranth becomes the first Indian to win at Motegi racetrack

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau

Chiranth Vishwanath from Bengaluru became the first Indian to win a race at the iconic Mobility Resort Motegi racetrack in Japan recently.

He finished the third round of the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship with a victory and fourth-place finish in the TVS Asia Championship category.

Chiranth.

Having qualified fourth after a series of fastest laps in the official practice session, 18-year-old Chiranth, astride a TVS Apache RR 310, led from the start in Race-1. However, in the fifth lap of the eight-lap race, he fell to P5 after contact with another rider. But he recovered, passing three riders in the last lap to post a win, his first of the championship.

In Race-2, Chiranth was in second until the last lap when a contact with a fellow rider cost him two spots. The win and P4 finish helped Chiranth move up to fourth in the championship as he prepares for the next round in Indonesia in August.

Coles named in England T20I squad to face India

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

England has included uncapped all-rounder James Coles in its squad for the T20I series against India.

The 22-year-old, who has been batting in the top three for Sussex and also bowls left-arm spin, recently featured for the England Lions against South Africa.

Jordan Cox and Sonny Baker have been named in the T20I squad after making their Test debuts in the defeat to New Zealand at the Oval, while fast bowler Saqib Mahmood has regained his place.

The squad: Harry Brook (Capt.), Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Sonny Baker, Tom Banton, Jacob Bethell, Jos Buttler, James Coles, Jordan Cox, Sam Curran, Liam Dawson, Will Jacks, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Josh Tongue, Luke Wood.

Speed merchants: The podium finishers in the second round of the IAME National Series India. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Aaruthran owns the Mini under-10 race

Sports Bureau

Aaruthran Prabhu (Kartkrew Motorsports) dominated the Mini under-10 category, winning both the Super Heat and Finals, in the second round of the RA Motorsports-promoted IAME National Series India held at the CoASTT Kartomania Circuit in Coimbatore on Sunday.

Shiv Neel Narain (NKRA Motorsports) came up trumps in the Mini category.

Provisional results (all finals):
Seniors (18 laps): 1. Laksh Bafna (LB Racing) 13mins, 35.740secs, 2. Tanmay Kothari (Red Rabbit Racers) 13:43.070, 3. Mikkel Leib Rajan (Momentum Motorsports) 13:49.059.
Juniors (16 laps): 1. Rehan Khan Rasheed (Momentum Motorsports) 12:25.748, 2. Aditya Prathap (Momentum Motorsports) 12:28.842, 3. Abhishikt Barse (Crest Motorsports) 12:31.390.
Mini (14 laps): 1. Shiv Neel Narain (NKRA with KKM) 11:30.666, 2. Eeshan Swaroop (Kartkrew Motorsports) 11:31.326, 3. Rudra Gokulnath (NKRA with Momentum) 11:34.340. **Mini under-10 (14 laps):** 1. Aaruthran Prabhu (Katkrew Motorsports) 11:45.865, 2. Abdur Rehman (Momentum Motorsports) 12:10.884, 3. Parth Singh (NKRA with KKM) 12:20.351.